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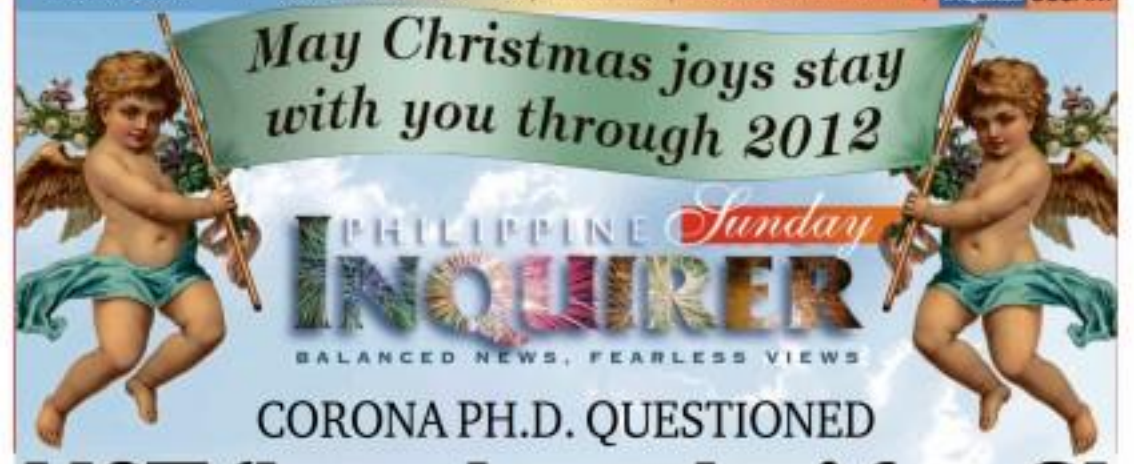

CORONA PH.D. QUESTIONED

UST 'breaks rules' for CJ

By Marites Dañguilan Vitug
www.rappler.com

IN A SPECIAL graduation ceremony in April 2011 at the historic Puerta Real, University of Santo Tomas (UST) conferred on Chief Justice Renato Corona a doctorate in civil law, summa cum laude.

He was one of six graduates to garner top honors during ceremonies intended to commemorate the university's quadricentennial.

Kneeling before the UST rector and wearing a black robe and bright red cape, Corona received a "ceremonial declaration" of the graduation, apart from his doctoral degree, from Fr. Rolando de la Rosa.

It was a proud moment for UST, the world's largest Catholic university, as it celebrated its 400th anniversary. It was as well for Corona who was appointed to the highest post in the Supreme Court in May 2010.

"This great educational institution ... the oldest existing university in Asia ... has made it possible for me to realize my dream of appending the hard-earned degree of Doctor of Civil Law to my name," Corona said in his valedictory address.

It was a welcome honor for the Chief Justice whose legitimacy was in doubt as he was appointed by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during a supposed ban on appointments in an election period. The Supreme Court, in a ruling, exempted itself from the ban.

[Corona will go on trial starting this month in the Senate impeachment court on eight charges, including]

UST BREAKS A1

Red Cross to build 1,000 homes on Jesuit land

By Jeannette I. Andrade
in Manila
and Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

THE NEW year is expected to bring hope and new homes to some 1,000 families displaced by Tropical Storm "Sendong," with the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) offering them the opportunity to literally rebuild their lives.

"It will be a family or a house which they themselves will help build," PRC secretary general Gwendolyn Pang said yesterday. The evacuees need not spend for their new homes which are expected to rise in six months.

On Thursday, PRC chair Richard Gordon and Xavier University chair Elpidio Peras led the groundbreaking

RED CROSS A9

INNOCENTS ABOARD Children who survived the deadly flash floods play in their temporary relocation site in Iligan City. Close to half a million people in the cities of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro have been displaced by Tropical Storm "Sendong" that killed over 1,200 people in Northern Mindanao. Most will greet the New Year in makeshift tent cities. KEVIN QUINONES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

'Gapo mayor's wife goes home to bury sis

By Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon

OLONGAPO CITY—It was not a happy Christmas homecoming for Anne Marie Gordon, the wife of Olongapo City Mayor James Gordon Jr.

Gordon returned to her native Cagayan de Oro City for the holidays to bury a sister who died in the floods that devastated her hometown following the heavy rains spawned by Tropical Storm "Sendong."

The body of Gordon's sister, Susan Canada-Arnolin, was found on Dec. 19, two days after killer floods swept away riverside communities in Cagayan de Oro City. Susan drowned but her husband Eduardo and their son survived.

For Anne Marie Gordon, the scale of the devastation in her hometown was so overwhelming that "I couldn't ...

OLONGAPO A9

World rings in 2012 as spectacular as ever

SYDNEY—Spectacular fireworks and crowded parties will ring in the New Year for revelers around the world on Saturday, as billions mark the end of 2011 with noisy celebrations from Sydney to Stockholm.

WORLD A8

Samoans hop into future, 1st to greet 2012

APIA, Samoa—The New Year's Eve parties started a whole day early on the South Pacific island nation of Samoa, after a hop across the international date line transported the country 24 hours into the future—making it the first in the world to ring in the new year.

Samoans began celebrating under a rainbow of fireworks at the stroke of midnight on Thursday, Dec. 29—when the country skipped over Friday and moved straight into 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 31.

SAMOANS A8

NEW YEAR'S EVE PREVIEW Visitors watch a dazzling fireworks display at Quezon City Memorial Circle on Friday night, a day before New Year's Eve. MARI LOPEZ

The good, bad of PH as world social networking capital

By Dennis Clemente
Contributor

NEW YORK—In the United States the media hailed her as an "American hero." In the Philippines, Robin Lim is a "Filipino-American hero" who grew up in the Philippines with a Filipino mother and American father. On Dec. 11, she was honored on CNN's 2011

COMMENTARY

Hero of the Year.

Her nationality is not the issue here. We are proud of her selfless crusade to provide free prenatal, birth and other medical services in Tondo. What aroused our interest is the strength of her votes, following CNN's contest format where the network chooses 10 equally impressive nominees

THE GOOD A2

LUNETA TRIVIA

Vatican City can fit in Rizal Park

By Jerome Aning

HOW WELL do you know Rizal Park?

Here are 10 little-known facts about Rizal Park as culled from interviews with officials of the National Park Development Committee (NPDC), park attendants and guides, frequent visitors, history and architecture hobbyists, old news clippings, and other reports, both print and online.

• Vatican City can fit inside Rizal Park. The Vatican has an area of 44 hectares compared with Rizal Park's 58 hectares.

• Valencia Circle, which surrounds the Lapu-Lapu statue, is Metro Manila's biggest rotunda (defined as a circular road with no road inside). It has a diameter of 42 meters. The circle is named after Teodora Valencia, the

NATIGAN CITY A11

WHAT'S INSIDE

NEWS • **Palace** welcomes P22-B WB loan **WORLD** • **WHO** warns of possible new biological weapon **ENTERTAINMENT** • **Hollywood** stars' quotables from Kristen Stewart, Angelina Jolie, etc. • **Pinay** cook who won NY acting trophy **LIFESTYLE** • **Huffington** Post singles out arroz caldo, chicken adobo as hip updates of Pinoy cuisine • **How** to make the tech-phobic senior in your life love his/her gadget

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with occasional light rain. Light to moderate winds coming from the Northeast. See weather forecasts and satellite...

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Mostly cloudy
Dagupan City	Mostly cloudy
Laoag	Mostly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly cloudy
Catbalogan	Mostly cloudy
Iloilo City	Mostly cloudy
Cebu City	Mostly cloudy
Tacloban	Mostly cloudy
Zamboanga City	Mostly cloudy
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly cloudy
Davao City	Mostly cloudy
General Santos	Mostly cloudy

6/42 LOTTO

2:00 PM	18 28
5:00 PM	4 10
9:00 PM	1 25

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

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5:00 PM	3 4 0
9:00 PM	0 9 2

SIX DIGIT (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday)

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4/42 LUZ, MIN

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P1,000,000.00

6/55 GRAND LOTTO

7 22 26 41 50 51

P66,396,088.80

LOTTO: 7293 Tues 6/42 LOTTO, result to 6/42: P1.5 Million

Foreign secretary flies to Syria

By Tina G. Santos

FOREIGN Secretary Albert del Rosario left for Syria last night to oversee the evacuation of thousands of Filipino workers amid escalating violence in the Middle East country.

Del Rosario left on board a Qatar Airways flight bound for Damascus (6am in mid-night on Saturday). He was accompanied by Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Jarabini Comsion Jr.

"We are fully committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of our beloved Filipinos in Syria. Therefore, it is our objective to undertake the repatriation of our kababayan there as quickly as possible," Del Rosario said.

In a statement, he said they would seek the assistance of Syrian officials in ensuring the safety of more than 4,000 Filipinos and their immediate repatriation to Manila.

Del Rosario said they would also ensure that all systems were in place in the Philippine Embassy to implement crisis alert level 4, which calls for mandatory repatriation.

"We will also meet with Filipino community leaders to effect the orderly dissemination of the mandatory repatriation, visit exit points and assess the security situation and contingency plans," he said. He said the visit was upon the instruction of President Arroyo.

This is the second visit of Del Rosario to Syria. His first was in April when he assessed the political situation and the conditions of Filipinos there.

The Philippine Embassy in Damascus reported that the capital remained on high alert amid violence continued. With AP/AFP reports

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'Calamity declaration triggered WB loan'

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG yesterday welcomed the release of a $500-million (P22 billion) loan from the World Bank for the speedy rehabilitation of southern areas devastated by Tropical Storm "Sending."

"We thank the World Bank for its support in this time of calamity," Secretary Ricky Carandang, head of the Presidential Communication Development and Strategic Planning Office, said in a text message.

"This is the first time the World Bank is providing this catastrophic drawdown facility. It's a gesture of support by the World Bank for the Arroyo administration," said Budget Secretary Florencio Abad.

"The agreement to loan was signed when [President Arroyo] was in the US last September," Abad said in a text message.

The budget secretary said the Philippines moves on the loan was triggered by President Arroyo's declaration of a state of national calamity after he visited the massively affected cities of Cagayan de Oro, Iligan and Dumaguete.

"The trigger to access it is a declaration of national calamity which was done after Sending. After that we formally applied for it and it was recently released in full," Abad said.

The loan would be used wisely, Abad assured the public.

"There is a requirement for reporting on releases and disbursements that is normally tighter than with regular funds of government," he said.

Over a thousand people were reported killed and tens of thousands more were left homeless in coastal and northern Mindanao after floods spawned by Sending caused rivers to overflow. The worst hit were riverside areas of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro cities, where floods brought brought down from the mountains a deadly cascade of illegally cut logs that smashed homes and bridges along the way.

Abad said the allocation of the WB fund would be based on priorities for rehabilitation set by the National Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC).

Abad on Friday said the Casanova pipe Bromdown Option was a highly concessional loan with a little over one percent interest annually, payable in 25 years and with a grace period of 10 years.

He said the loan would be used to repair and rehabilitate post-harvest facilities, irrigation systems, fishing ports and boats.

Carandang said that loan proceeds would not be used to feed the government's relocation of affected residents in northern Mindanao.

"The President prefers to use our own internally generated funds as much as possible," Carandang said.

Presidential Assistant had ordered that no resident of the geohazard areas affected by the massive floods would be allowed to return to the vulnerable locations.

The Department of Budget and Management recently announced the release of more than P546 million for the construction of core shelters for more than 3,000 displaced families in Iligan City.

A 10-meter relocation site away from the flood-prone and landslide-prone areas had also been identified.

In addition, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said the government had turned over P7.3 million to the military's National Development Support Command for the construction of bunk houses in Cagayan de Oro.

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207 hurt by firecrackers in run-up to the new year

By Philip C. Tubeza and Ellen Tordesillas

AT LEAST 207 people had been injured by powerful firecrackers and celebratory gunfire across the country as of yesterday morning, despite a government-wide campaign against reckless revelers to welcome the new year, the Department of Health (DOH) reported.

The DOH said the nine 16 percent lower compared to the same period last year and eight cases (4 percent) lower than the previous five-year average (2006-2010), the DOH said.

Health Secretary Enrique Ona Tayag said most of those were children. Stray bullets wounded eight people and 197 were injured by powerful firecrackers on Dec. 21-30.

But the authorities feared the number of injuries would rise as Filipinos bid goodbye to a year of natural disasters and economic uncertainty.

The DOH said 322 cases (59 percent) were recorded in the National Capital Region. Those injured by firecrackers were aged 1 to 87 years old, a majority of them were male.

More than half (154 percent) of those injured were between the age of 1 and 18. Eighty-four percent were male and 62 percent had directly handled firecrackers, the DOH said.

It said 116 cases (57 percent) resulted in blasts or burns with one amputation, 14 (7 percent) resulted in blasts or burns with amputation, and 11 (56 percent) got their eyes injured.

Of those injured, 18 or 14 percent were at least 15 years and were under the influence of alcohol, 142 or 72 percent used illegal fireworks, and 116 or 57 percent used fireworks, the DOH said.

"The most common legal firecracker used is kuwa (21 percent). One hundred forty-four (71 percent) of the injuries occurred in the street," it added.

To avoid fires during the New Year's Day celebrations, fire officials issued last-minute warnings to the public.

Chief Supt. Santiago Lapeña, director of the Bureau of Fire Protection National Capital Region, reminded Metro Manila residents not to light candles in their homes and leave them unattended, and to unplug appliances if leaving the house.

Lapeña also appealed to the public to call the hotline number 911-1406 in case of fire or any other emergency.

The BFP-NCR yesterday led a motorcade of fire trucks around Metro Manila as part of its campaign against illegal firecrackers and other fire hazards.

Fire trucks from the BFP and volunteer fire brigades converged on the Quirino Grandstand in Manila for a short program before roaming the city streets to warn the public against using illegal firecrackers and other possible causes of fire.

With an AFP report

Message to faithful: New year to bring 'abundant graces'

HOPE in the present difficulties, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) sees a year of "abundant graces" for the faithful in 2012.

CBCP president and Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma said Catholics would witness this year's meeting in Rome of bishops from around the world dubbed as synodsynoding on the Churches evangelization efforts and the canonization of the Philippines' second Catholic saint, Blessed Pedro Calungsod.

"So we thank God for the many blessings He bestowed on our past, we offer Him praise and thanksgiving as He brings us to another year, the New Year 2012...For us Catholics, the new year 2012 promises abundant divine graces," Palma said in a New Year message.

"Every New Year gives us yet another year to build a gift and a task. We are here for a reason; we have a mission. As we embark on life's journey we pray for courage and hope. Surely the task which God has given us is beyond our own ability but for the good of the Church and the community," he said.

Palma said the bishops would be meeting in Rome to discuss "The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith."

"It will times, in communion with the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI...the new methods and means for transmitting the Good News to people in our world today & hopes to divest evangelization with a renewed enthusiasm," Palma said.

"This year will also see the canonization of our very own Blessed Pedro Calungsod. We encourage all of us toward a renewal because of the preparations which will coincide with canonization. If we know him better and emulate his virtues, particularly his zeal for learning, living, spreading and even dying for the faith, we become a better people," he added.

Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle prayed for those who suffered from the devastation wrought by Tropical Storm "Sendong" and those "ruined daily by poverty, disease, corruption, lack of employment, inadequate services and abuse of corruption."

"Some people might think that mentioning the ruins of life does not belong in a New Year message that prepares us come on hope. But to the Bible, hope begins with honesty in the face of evil and difficult situations," Tagle said.

Bishop Efraim Tendero of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches prayed for justice, assurance to the victims of the typhoon, and deliverance from poverty and graft-ridden politics.

"This 2012, as we help the poor and suffering, call for accountability among government officials and other officials, and pursue the 'straight and narrow path,' let us all seek to uphold justice that is balanced with kindness and motivated by the submission to God's authority. By doing such, we will enjoy the blessings, guidance and protection of God throughout this New Year," Tendero said.

Philip C. Tubeza

Corona deserves hearing—Lagman

By Cynthia D. Balana

MINORITY Leader Edcel Lagman yesterday defended the call for a preliminary hearing before the start of the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

This was not a delaying tactic to delay the trial as prosecutors charge, he said.

The representatives from Albay said that a "verification" of the impeachment complaint was required by the Constitution and the rules on impeachment of the House of Representatives.

Such a hearing, he said, should verify whether the 188 House members who signed the articles of impeachment against the Chief Justice had indeed read and understood the charges.

Marikina Rep. Romero Quimbo, spokesperson of the House prosecution panel, earlier expressed disappointment over the filing by Corona's defense team of its motion for preliminary hearing before the Senate impeachment court.

"It is disappointing that Chief Justice Corona and his defense team have resorted to legal technicalities to delay and derail the impeachment process," Quimbo said.

Quimbo said this contradicted the earlier statements of Corona's camp that they wanted the impeachment trial to proceed swiftly and without delay.

"I am surprised that they want the second stage of hearing to have been hanging that the impeachment complaint was weak if they truly believed that, why then would they want the trial to be delayed? Is it possible that they are now using every means to prevent the trial from taking place? What are they scared of?" Quimbo said.

Should the Senate accede to Corona's request for a preliminary hearing on his motion to dismiss, the trial would not be able to start immediately be set.

Lagman, however, said that "undue discrimination of the legality and validity of the verification is not illusory but necessary to place the horse before the cart," a constitution procedure to impeachment trial shed.

If the validity of the verification is not ensured by the Senate, then the impeachment trial may proceed, said Lagman.

However, if the verification is found to be flawed and "fatally defective," then the Senate must dismiss the Articles of Impeachment and return the articles complaint to the House for completion of the process. At least one-third of the representatives can then refile the same or the same issues on justice (as conduct unbecoming of a member of the Supreme Court) if a member is not obtained, he said.

Lagman said a valid verification would require the complainants to swear under oath that they "have read the contents" of the complaint, and that the allegations therein are true of our own knowledge and belief or on the basis of our reading and appreciation of the documents and other records pertinent thereto."

"It is not sufficient that a third party verified it. The complainants the contents of the complaint or showed to them a PowerPoint presentation. Personal reading and appreciation of the complaint is mandatory," Lagman said.

Lagman said if it was "physically impossible" for the 188 representatives to have read and understood the 37-page complaint in a couple of hours given the adjournment that only four hard copies were available at the caucus called for the affixing of the complainants' signatures and no questions were entertained.

"Clearly, unskill on boostering and inordinate alacrity can breach the rules," Lagman said.

EARLY START A worshiper in Boracay, Manila, draws oft a charm in the form of a dragon. The Chinese Year of the Water Dragon doesn't start until Jan. 23 but days leading up to the new year (Jan 1), many people made the trek to Chinatown to get their lucky pieces. MIKKO ASTRONOMO

In 2012, PCSO going where neediest are

By Mike Navallo

THE PHILIPPINE Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) expects its profitability index this year to widen to reach, particularly in places where there is most need for the financial assistance the agency provides.

PCSO general manager Jose Ferdinand Rojas II said the agency intended to be closer to its beneficiaries by opening up "more provincial district offices and subdistricts, especially in Mindanao."

This apart from the agency's goal of increasing revenue this year so that more people can benefit from its aid.

"The PCSO will continue to serve the Filipino people's medical and health-related concerns, especially during times of calamity," said Rojas in a statement.

"In order to do this more effectively, we shall be expanding the PCSO's revenues from games and we ask the public's support for this."

The agency swiftly disbursed aid to the people of Southern Mindanao who were ravaged by Tropical Storm "Sendong" in mid-December, according to the agency.

The PCSO board released P1 million for the purchase of relief goods which were distributed in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities and three towns in Misamis Occidental. A portion of the funds was also released for medicines for the survivors as well as their military rescuers.

The agency likewise committed to cover the medical expenses of patients in government hospitals who exploded Monday's midnight to wee hours firecracker binds in two government hospitals—P4.8 million at Northern Mindanao Medical Center in Cagayan de Oro City and P250,000 for medicines at Gregorio Lluch Memorial Hospital in Iligan City.

In a yearend report, Rojas said the PCSO managed to generate over P12 billion in 2011 through its hugely popular lottery games and other agency activities like sweepstakes and horse races.

More rain seen in Mindanao

RAINS hours before the year ended, a low-pressure area developed on Saturday threatening to bring rain-cum-rain and southern Mindanao to the next few days, but it is unlikely to intensify into a tropical depression, weather forecasters said yesterday.

The 5:26, estimated at 490 kilometers east northeast of Central Mindanao City Saturday morning, will blanket the Visayas and Mindanao with cloudy skies coupled with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms, forecaster Raymund Ordinario said.

The showers and thunderstorms, however, will become widespread when sea waters and southern Mindanao, and residents are warned of possible flashfloods and landslides, he said.

"It will bring rains over seaways and southern Mindanao in the middle of the coming week," Ordinario of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said by phone.

The LPA, however, has a slim chance of intensifying into a tropical depression, and might even dissipate once it encounters the cold sea surface temperature in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), he said.

TJ Burgonio

Correction

IN THE DEC. 30 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Sisilang' shows donor trades in Manila"—misstated the last name of one of the winners of the Best Student Film award at the Metro Manila Film Festival. The winning film "Pepasa" was created by Kris Aviu de la Peña—not De Leon.

+ + +

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday – January 1, 2012
Mary, Mother of God
1st Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord bless you

This Yahweh spoke to Moses saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons and say to them: This is how you shall bless the people of Israel; you shall say to them:

May Yahweh bless you and keep you!
May Yahweh let his face shine on you, and be gracious to you!
May Yahweh look kindly on you, and give you his peace!

So that was what they put my name on the people of Israel and I will bless them."

2nd Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Sons of servants

But when the fullness of time came, God sent his Son. He came born of woman and subject to the Law, in order to redeem the subjects of the Law, that we might receive adoption as children of God. And because you are children, God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son which cries out: Abba! Father! So you are no longer a slave but a son or daughter, and since you are children you are heirs by God's grace.

Gospel: Luke 2: 16-21

Many treasured all these words

The shepherds came hurriedly and found Mary and Joseph with the baby lying in the manger. On seeing this they related what they had been told about the child, and all were astonished at the hearing the shepherds.

As for Mary, she treasured all these sayings and continually pondered over them.

The shepherds then returned, giving glory and praise to God for all they had heard and seen, just as the angel had told them.

On the eighth day, the circumcision of the baby had to be performed, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given before he was conceived.

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NBN-ZTE whistle-blower: I feel vindicated

By Ellen Tordesillas

FORMER SOLICITOR Jose de Venecia said he is vindicated after learning that former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, had been indicted for graft in the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp.

"I feel vindicated for me as Jesus and I have gained the respect of our countrymen," said De Venecia, the businessman who exposed corrupt dealings in the national broadband deal four years ago.

The filing the attacks I expose one of the largest single acts of corruption in our country's history. My life has been at risk since then. I have had to prevent myself and my immediate family, including my children, to stand down but I did not," said De Venecia, the son of former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

De Venecia, whose Amicus Curiae Holdings Inc. had made an unsolicited bid for the NBN project under a build-operate-transfer scheme in December 2006, said a Senate inquiry that he urged Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, the committee chairman, to conduct on the deal "was willing to help the government save its case. "I am offering my support to the Ombudsman, to whatever means possible, so that justice may be served," he said.

De Venecia appeared at a Senate blue ribbon hearing in September 2007 to expose the bribery-laced deal that was signed by government officials in China.

Arroyo canceled the deal a month after the start of the Senate probe.

"The anomalous ZTE deal characterized the excesses of the corrupt dictatorship of the Arroyos. Their being charged in court, and hopefully their eventual conviction, would signify a positive step for our justice system and our collective fight against corruption," said De Venecia.

Aside from the Arroyos, the Ombudsman also charged Jose Pidal, the then Commissioner of Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Romulo Tanega, former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, former Commission on Elections Chairman Benjamin Abalos, former Commissioner on Elections Virgilio Garcillano, businessman Rolando Valdez and Atty. Lourdes Dimaano, former Commission on Elections director for education and information.

[OBJ] de Venecia (right) demonstrates how Miss Arroyo pointed and pulled at him to "back off" from the NBN-ZTE deal. RAFAEL ESTEBAN

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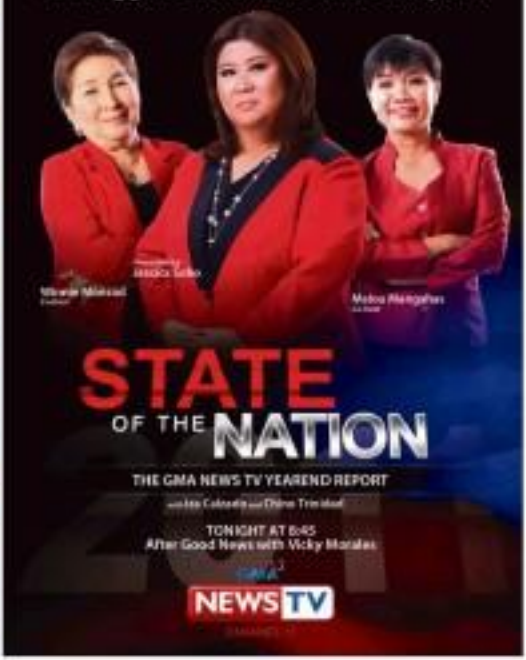

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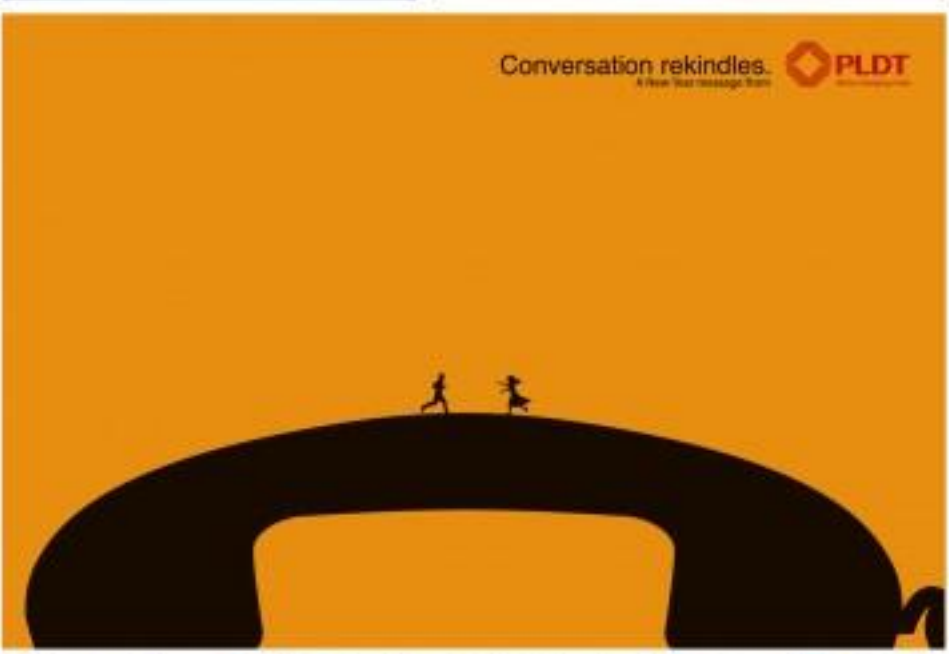

Across the NATION

2,000 houses for war evacuees seen

COTABATO CITY—The government is spending at least P62 million to build 2,340 houses for hundreds of residents of Maguindanao who had been displaced by fighting between government soldiers and Moro separatist rebels.

A check representing the funds had been turned over on Friday to officials of the autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) for them to start building houses for residents uprooted from their communities by the 2008 fighting between soldiers and rebels.

Bernard Ravena, acting ARMM vice governor, received the check to turn hold to Maguindanao that were relocated by executives of Maguindanao and other local officials.

Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu said the ceremony manifested the sincerity of President Aquino in efforts to bring peace to conflict-torn areas in Mindanao.

New guerrilla force

Peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which had dropped a demand for an independent state in favor of an expanded autonomous region, had been complicated by the emergence of a new guerrilla group under renegade leader Ameril Umra Kato.

Kato, who had been reported to have shot at a Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) convoy in Maguindanao province on Dec. 27, is a former commander of

INQUIRER Mindanao

Hope in the year of fire and rain

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Iligan City

THEIR HOUSE swept away by flood on the Iligan River overflowed in the wee hours of Dec. 17, 18-year-old Alemar Bontuyan returned to its banks to gather sand and gravel which his family sells for P50 per sack.

This is why Bontuyan's family dumped the evacuation center for a shack in their old riverside place in Barangay Mahayahay in Iligan City.

"We cannot move on with our lives by simply lining up for free food," the third-year high school student said. "We don't only need food. I need to carry for my school needs and those of my younger brothers and sisters."

Like Bontuyan, Bayag Island residents Teresita Bagasalo, 71, hopes to rebuild her life that was ruined by Tropical Storm "Sendong" and the countrside disaster that it unleashed. Until now, she is still searching for her missing husband, a son-in-law and a granddaughter.

Bagasalo said a premonition hunted the coastal shaman with her youngest daughter, the only child staying with her, would be unclear enough to start anew.

Imbibing a defiant hope is what most of Mindanao's people would be taking as a legacy of 2011, a year defined by fire and rain.

The horror of Sendong in Northern Mindanao and the continuing terrorism cube Dati brought more areas on the island under deep waters brought tragic conclusion to 2011, its final quarter filled with climactic events.

But 2011 was greeted with renewed hopes for a peaceful settlement of the over four-decades-old Moro and communist rebellions that centered under Independent from Mindanao's poorest regions.

In January, government ended its kicking with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) over technicalities in the negotiations and announced that it was ready to resume formal talks.

Five formal meetings had taken place since February and the negotiating panels are looking forward to finishing only a framework for a political settlement next month.

In February in Oslo, Norway, government negotiators met with their counterparts in the National Democratic Front (NDF), political front of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). Talks have not moved forward ever since although there were activities among the sectoral working groups.

Eight months into the Oslo face-off, the CPP took advantage of the absence of a ceasefire pact with the government to carry out its vow to "punish" mining and logging companies for supposedly plundering the country's natural wealth.

In a series that started on growing scale, more aggressive unchecked environmental destruction in the Caraga region, the CPP's armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), attacked a nickel mining operation in Tagana-an, Claver, Surigao del Norte, on Oct. 3.

The offensive has been an offshoot of the swaths of farmland destroyed by mining extractivism. The mining industry likewise is in the monthly Japanese nickel ore Pond Harbor which triggered the Second World War.

The mood for war deepened as forces of the MILF's Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) clashed with Philippine Army troops in 46 Barks, Datilan, on Oct. 18, resulting in the death of 24 people, 19 of them soldiers.

The crisis of executive led to many calls for abandoning the peace negotiations with the Moro rebels and pursuing an all-out war. Although those were roundly rejected by President Aquino, more than 20,000 people fled their homes in Zamboanga Sibugay during the government pursuit of "lawless elements."

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has kept mum about its findings on the al-Barka clash. Its troop deployment, which continued massive contributions mechanisms with the MILF and the involvement of theft interests have remained a mystery.

Nonetheless, its silence exposed some cracks in the military establishment. How much of it is really committed to the primacy of the peace process when dealing with the Moro and communist insurgencies?

The ruins of cool December would have been a welcome respite from the fiery events. But not the scale brought by Sendong, especially among people of Northern Mindanao who have known the region throughout practically their lifetimes or typhoon-free.

In barely a day of fury—rain and 300 millimeters of rain that poured mostly between 9 p.m. and midnight—Sendong's rain claimed at least 1,200 lives and affected almost 700,000 people in 13 provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao, according to a Dec. 26 report of the United Nations' Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Actions (UN-Ocha).

Some 250,000 people are in dire need of food assistance, the agency added.

In recent memory, the disaster is second in distance is that of the yearlong war between government and the MILF beginning in August 2008 when a hundred Moro homeland dent that displaced some 600,000 people.

It exposed the true ecological state of Northern Mindanao, whose mined ecosystem to the largest on the island and among the fewest growing metropolis.

The 14-kilometer line of logs floating in the Mindanao Sea found by Philippine Coast Guard facilitates dooting a environmental consciousness, as well as those along some 5-km coastline in Iligan area to weak environmental law enforcement.

Logging and mining are again on the spotlight and needed to be reviewed as a national resource are policy. People fear that unabated extraction amid very weak regulations could further our many Mindanao's natural resiliency to disasters.

Moreover, the disasters revealed the unmet and institutional capacities of the mayors and local government bureaucracies of flood-hit communities.

Iligan and Cagayan de Oro City, where the UN-Ocha said 84 percent of the human losses needs are concentrated, are now in this scheme. The disaster timelines were introduced to the thin line between moral compassion and careless practicality.

While Cagayan de Oro chose to dump the foul-smelling decomposing bodies that remained unidentified in the garbage landfill, Iligan was defiant to give them dignity.

And, even as the Iligan local government had chosen refuge in safe delivery to flood survivors, it has been looking for a "permanent solution" to their shelter problems this early.

Here recently, Iligan Mayor Lawrence Cruz hopes to choose and the first of "disaster housing units" for homeless residence, like Bontuyan and Bagasalo, for them to really start a hopeful 2012.

A similar transfer to higher, safe grounds is planned for those displaced in Cagayan de Oro.

A FAMILY of survivors of the Dec. 17 disaster in Iligan City clings to the wry of life it has been used to before the country's worst tragedy in recent years unveils and brought death and destruction never before seen in the city. YOKO ENDOSCO

We cannot move on with our lives by simply lining up for free food... We don't only need food...'

JUST AS QUICKLY as mud, water, logs and debris from forests had born for decades of logging ducts tored their homes, those residents of a community in Iligan City took to rebuild their houses, refusing to queue for donated food in evacuation centers and clinging to the way they had lived before tragedy struck.

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World rings in 2012 as spectacular as ever

From page A1

From New York's glittering Times Square, to Dubai's Burj Khalifa and Hong Kong's packing harbor, crowds will gather to usher in 2012 in a blaze of light, sound and music.

In Australia, more than 1.5 million people are expected to mass at vantage points along Sydney Harbour to watch a 9-minute pyrotechnic spectacular which has the arch of the Sydney Harbor Bridge as its focal point.

By early afternoon thousands of revelers were already soaking up the summer heat for the 7 tons of explosives which will light up the city skyline colorful rectangle display which among global attractions.

"Every year we make sure our celebrations are bigger and better than the year before," Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore said.

Olympic theme

In London crowds will see in 2012, the year it hosts the Olympic Games, with fireworks bursting above the River Thames as Big Ben chimes out midnight in a display watched by more than 250,000 people on the river banks.

In Paris, tens of thousands are expected to gather on the L'Champs-Elysees in the historical Champs Elysees in the historical avenue to watch a spectacular La Fete du Bastil-Sylvester while in Stockholm fireworks will be seen across much of the city.

In Amsterdam, revelers are gearing up for the first "true" between two giant inflatable people who will become a yearly tradition in the city.

Celebrations in the North Island canceled due to the weather while swollen rivers were disrupting transmissions around Nelson, in the South Island.

In Japan, a country still suffering the effects of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, families were gathering for trips to shrines to usher in the New Year.

But refugees from the nation's nuclear crisis, which was triggered by the natural disaster, say they have little to celebrate after being relocated far from home and loved ones.

"I can't say Happy New Year as I don't feel happiness," said Yuji Takahashi, one of about 1,000 nuclear refugees living in a 50-story Tokyo tower block.

"Many of our holidays were so enjoyable as my family and relatives got together to celebrate another year, but they have dispersed and now live separately since the nuclear accident."

Sad occasion

In the Philippines, where killer floods spawned by Tropical Storm "Sendong" (international code name: Washi) have swept away whole villages in Northern Mindanao, the normally festive New Year day is expected to be a sad and somber occasion.

"Our countrymen are still reeling from the effects of the storm, especially those who have lost family members," said OIC Defense Chief Voltaire Ramos, who

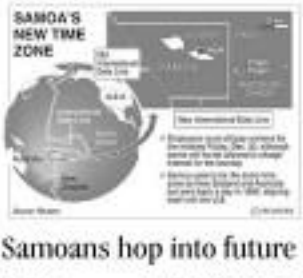
TIMES SQUARE The New Year's live ball, which measures 12 feet, weighs 11,875 pounds, and is adorned with 2,688 Waterford crystal triangles of various sizes, is raised atop One Times Square in New York on New Year's Eve. Up to 1 million people are expected to pack Times Square to watch as the ball drops at midnight on New Year's Eve, ushering in 2012. REUTERS

said that more than 1,258 people have died in the disaster.

Traditionally, Filipinos welcome the New Year with fireworks and parties but there are no celebrations planned for the evacuation centers housing more than 73,000 of the 465,000 displaced by the storm which hit two weeks ago.

Armed forces chief Jose Rene Vice Pabico ordered the troops to "keep it simple."

"Somehow, they will find a way to celebrate," he said. AFP



Samoans hop into future

From page A1

Samoa and neighboring Tokelau lie near the date line that zigzags erratically through the Pacific Ocean, and both sets of islands decided to realign themselves this year from time dimensions east of the line to the Asian side. In the move to leap-with-less trading partners.

Appreciating change

The time change officially dawned at 10 a.m. on December 30 in Apia, in line with its major trading partners, foremost the islands' week days further from the United States, which dominated its economy in the past.

Still paid on Friday

In the giant step-version of daylight saving time, the islands' 196,000 citizens, and the 1,500 who live on Tokelau, went to sleep on Thursday and woke up on Saturday. The government has decreed that Samoan workers will be paid on Friday-not lost pay all the same.

Samoa—about 9,300 kilometers southeast of Manila—had been out of alignment with its Asian-Pacific neighbors since 1892, when American traders switched it to 1 WEST to shift from the western side to the eastern side of the international date line to facilitate business with the West Coast of the United States.

That earlier shift took place on the American Independence Day—and the Samoans could celebrate July 4 twice.

The new time compact Samoa Government officials'd made it Australia rather than 21 hours behind it, and 23 hours ahead of California, instead of two hours behind it.

More business

The Prime Minister of Samoa, Tuila'epa Sailele Malielegaoi, acknowledged the new distance from the American west but said the decision would make it much easier to do business with Australia and New Zealand, whose economies are linked increasingly with the rest of Asia, particularly China.

"In doing business with New Zealand and Australia, we're losing out on two working days a week," Tuila'epa said. "While it's Friday here, it's Saturday in New Zealand, and when we're at church on Sunday they're already conducting business in Sydney and Brisbane."

Today, the cabinet said Monday, "we do a lot more business with New Zealand and Australia. China and Pacific Rim countries such as Singapore."

Two years ago Samoa took a step to align itself with Australia and New England, putting drivers on the left side of the road rather than the right. The prime minister said the change would make it easier for Samoans or those neighboring nations to rent used cars from their relatives.

Free for all

Shifting plans by decree is not a new phenomenon in the Pacific. At the record turn of this century, in a bid to be the first to greet the dawn on what was called the new millennium, Pacific island nations engaged in a free-for-all of shifting time zones, date lines and daylight saving time.

The date line, created at an international convention in 1884, is an imaginary line drawn roughly north to south along the 180-degree meridian, jogging and zigging here and there to accommodate the bounds and demands of the nations along its route.

Moving eastward across the date line, a traveler loses a day, moving to a time where it is 24 hours later. Moving eastward a day is gained.

At the year 2000 approached, the island nation of Kiribati (33 atolls and one coral island) straddling equatorial the date line in a 3,000 mile-wide belt of ocean. The easternmost tip, Caroline Island, Tonga and Fiji of the decided daylight saving time to move their clocks an hour ahead.

Economic realities

"There seems to have been reasons why any country called declare itself to be in whatever time zone it likes," said Ben Boyd, Observatory at Greenwich, the international arbiter of official time, in a correspondence statement.

The Samoan prime minister insisted that this week's hop across the date line was prompted entirely by economic realities and that it had nothing to do with a bid to be the first place in the world to greet the new year in 2012.

Samoa, Samoa, about 125 km to the east of Samoa, is not making this claim. AP/New York Times

The good, bad of PH as world social networking capital

From page A1

and let people from all over the world vote for one winner.

Statistically (200% 2009 News of the Year was Filipinos here and valued education Efren Penaflorida. He garnered the most votes but he finished downstream also in the Philippines. It's an other well-deserved win, whether he's Filipino or not.

Still, to having a Filipino pedigree a coincidence in those love solutions? In both times, Filipinos or would-be-Filipinos were encouraged to vote—and vote they did.

CNN was asked to comment on the tally and tabulation of votes but did not get out the information as of press time.

Pinoys having so much time on our dimensions of the Philippines as the Social Networking Capital of the World. It possibly leads Facebook usage (ranked first to usage, ranks in terms of number of users) and or second to Youtube (ranked sixth and ninth times eighth) and YouTube (ranked first is uploads) aside from Skype calling (as part of a joke on "I Broke Both"), and texting (more than any country in the world, average user sends 400 text messages a month).

The question of how to people can manage to do anything else comes to mind, because there simply has to be more to being the Social Network Capital of the World than Facebook, right, right? What is certainly clear for sure is that when it comes to voting, one can rely on the Filipino to be heard. (This writer is Filipino.)

Pageants are calling

Recent events point to this trend—by way of the beauty pageant, a favorite spectator sport among Filipinos.

So in London for Miss Pinoy! last June 6, Filipinos came up to vote when it resulted in two runners Gwendoline Ruais to the top five. The other human element opposed to bring objectivity to the entire proceedings—the judges—took over the rest of the way. Ruais didn't win, but she became the first runner-up.

In the Miss Universe national title in China, competitor Dianne Bevis topped the online fan voting, winning "Miss Internet Popularity" but while also making it to the top 15, again succumbed to other voting.

It was perhaps in the September 2011 Miss Universe title—the number locks of all beauty pageants—that online voting got more serious. As the candidates underwent the swimsuit and evening gown competition, the fan votes were also being tallied. Filipinos in love to bring in personal ads to keep his loneliness at bay, as reported in the HBO boxing reality boxing series, "24/7." In such contrast, his trainer Freddie Roach is content to some bones to an empty apartment.

Filipinos in person back in the Philippines for better or worse, relationships between friends and family are of equal importance. Add relationships with politicians and you have the famous (but genuinely chip) 80 percent voter turnout. Voting performance is commonplace—and there is what trouble can occur.

In American Idol Season 3 in 2004, Filipino-American Jasmine Trias reached third place, thanks to tremendous vote-saving support from California and her home state, Hawaii—two states with the most number of Filipinos. Would it matter if Trias was subsequently named the worst performer among American Idol's finalists and that Jennifer Hudson, eliminated earlier, became a huge star—a singer and academy Award-winning actress?

This was voting for vote's message, proving that Filipinos make use of every available technology and device. It was reportedly a ruse by Filipino to the that made the judges realize their word no longer carried as much significance. This realization would surface again recently when the judges—in the new "The X Factor USA" show—allegedly "judging" when people thought their votes should have been the deciding factor.

Friendster killer

Can TV and radio, lumped by the entertainment industry media, be classified as social tools? The Philippines made use of these old moodlets to launch the first-true Facebook revolution in 1986 called People Power—yet another typically great Filipino legend the Philippines as the road toward inspiring younger dreamers.

Since then, Filipinos have been easy to galvanize: a fight for a common cause—call texts more social tools as does mobile phone use. It was easy to bear that text messaging toppled former President Joseph Estrada for corruption charges when the Philippines, just three years earlier, became Lord (still in) the Text-messaging Capital of the World.

Remember when the Philippines was labeled Friendster-killer not too long ago?

Friendster tried to sell ads targeting the down-to-earth market when most of its site visitors were based in the Philippines. It was the No. 1 user of Friendster. By 2004, it was dead, only to resurface later as a social gaming site. The Philippines has since moved on to Facebook, and Mark Zuckerberg need not agonize in his Adidas slip-ons, because Friendster at its peak only had 50 million users.

So is having the Social Networking Capital of the World title, as dead by Universal Music Limit, a source of pride or embarrassment? Does the user measure? Is upstart wash profitability last?

On Facebook, the Philippines has, for two consecutive years, held the highest percentage of status reach on Facebook, user engagement, Facebook's internal metric (see for (http://www.comscoredatamine.com/2011/09/top-markets-for-facebook-by-percent-reach/) The Philippines is also No. 1 in joining new social networking sites, based on the to its June 2011.

It is understandable why. Yes folks opened its first fourth east Asia office in the Philippines last Dec 13, the economy being a top video uploaders. In hindsight, there may even be a connection there to how talented Filipinos congregate for the services of Narcissa. With the atmosphere number of views on a Philippine-made video world-wide, it was just a matter of time for Charice and Arnel Pineda of Journey to cross over.

Filipinos have time

People may wonder how a tiny country can manage to lead the way in social networking. Filipinos don't perceive this medium as a waste of time but as the continuing social part of the daily interaction of Filipinos. More important perhaps is the fact that Filipinos have time.

In the UK, people have no time at all between two jobs; no time to care for their children (babysitters are common in the Philippines), no time for friends, no time for household chores (most Filipino households have them), no time, period. (They even have drivers in the Philippines.)

But what can Filipinos do with this time? Normally, a Philippine-based company called PanClay Studio partnered with an American company in the US to produce social gaming apps. It's all well and good, but it would do much better if it had the global mindset of its Asian counterparts. The Indians, Japanese and Chinese know they don't need to partner with an American company. They can set up shop in the US...and still provide jobs back home.

Chinese rule

In the Philippines recently US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton attempted to an amorous chit in a question posed by a 24-year-old Filipino. Hour, the young woman asked, can she "balance" her romantic and make a difference in this age of high technology, being "very, very active" in social networking?

Acknowledging the Philippines having one of the highest Facebook usage rates in the world, Clinton found how it can be used to "bring about social change," like "exposing corruption, demanding transparency and ensuring accountability, breaking down barriers, to businesses could actually be built."

Clinton's response should cue to young people to contain an enabling change for social good. In the US, she cited a young woman's heroic online efforts to stop a bank from charging $35 a month for debit card usage—and won.

This win, of course, be used to the extreme. For this reason, while the Filipinos must be able to discern the difference between social good and pragmatic—and their church certain details. Perhaps it's time we use our tools our social capital and, really, because in the wrong hands of this hackers of online activity may just bite us where the most sensitive.

The author can be reached at dominicsantos@yahoo.com

UST 'breaks rules' for Corona to get Ph.D. with top honors

From page A1

ing because of public trust as a result of his partiality in cases involving Arroyo, who is currently detained on charges of electoral sabotage, a nonbailable offense.

But it turns out that UST may have broken its rules in granting Corona a doctorate in civil law and qualifying him for honors.

UST rules

First, UST requires a dissertation. Dissertation writing takes all of 75 units spread out to four years.

Second, only students who complete a doctorate degree in five years are qualified to graduate with honors. Those who overstayed beyond the residency limit ... will also be disqualified to graduate with honors."

Corona does not have a dissertation. Neither did he fulfill the five-year residency requirement.

Wrong signal

This unusual practice may set a precedent in UST and send a wrong signal to students that quick and influence-trump academic rigor.

The UST Graduate School did not reply to our questions and repeated requests for interview. We sent our first set of questions on Oct. 3, 2011 and again on Oct. 12. On that day it asked for one more day of extension but did not get back to us.

'Where's the dissertation'

What elated and, as a result, became the source of Corona's discomfort for a bunch on the Supreme Court that are more than friendly to the ex-chief.

Our search, which began last July yielded no results, except a public lecture the Chief Justice delivered in November 2010 at the UST Graduate School. The lecture, the official student publication of UST, reported in April last year (2011) that Corona's doctoral dissertation was titled "To Every One His Due: The Philippine Judiciary at the Forefront of Protecting Everyone's Interests."

Similarly, the Supreme Court website said the Chief Justice's dissertation was on environmental law "which he defended and lectured on in a convocation attended by some 300 graduate school students, faculty members and experts."

When we asked the UST Graduate School for access to Corona's dissertation, it gave to a copy of the March issue of Ad Veritatem, its multidisciplinary research journal, wherein his lecture was published. For the full dissertation, it suggested that we ask the Chief Justice himself.

Neither does the UST Law library have a copy of the dissertation. It instead referred us to the same journal where "an article based on his dissertation is available."

Mortified by the UST team's library does not have Corona's dissertation, it is standard for university libraries to have files of their students' dissertations. Eight months after the graduation, Estrella Majuelo, the chief librarian, had not received the Chief Justice's dissertation.

In July, we wrote Corona requesting access to his dissertation. His office did not respond despite our repeated calls.

The public lecture, also published last year by the Philippine Judicial Academy's sourcebook on environmental rights and legal remedies, is unlike a dissertation.

Largely descriptive and expansionary, its main point is "courts must administer rest, command justice with the zeal of giving what is due to each and every Filipino, even those who are yet unborn."

Corona ended with a promise: "That is the commitment of the Supreme Court to you."

'It's up to UST'

Emiliano Aguilar, former dean of the University of the Philippines' (UP) College of Law and conferring doctorate degrees was completely up to the university. "The school is free to waive some requirements. Schools are given more freedom when it comes to graduate courses," he said.

The graduate faculty he pointed out, could pass a resolution modifying its requirements. But it was not a "usual practice," he said, and he was not aware if this had happened in UP.

Pio Marcos Aniceto Lee Yiba, a lawyer and dean of the Arroyo School of Government, is to describe a dissertation.

He said that it was "a scholarly study, with original ideas, backed up by citations, and of publishable quality. What, then, did all universities require a public defense by a dissertation where the student faces a panel of academic experts who can examine him or her..."

Overstaying student

Corona told reporters after his graduation that he had worked on his doctoral degree for five years, attending classes whenever he could and spending weekends at writing papers.

UST regulations also prescribed rule, that Ph.D. programs be completed in five years. The maximum residency is seven years.

However, in an interview in 2002, after he was appointed to the Supreme Court, he told Newsbreak that he was already working on his dissertation for his doctorate in civil law: "I am doing my dissertation already. By next semester, I will present it ... After my doctorate in civil law, I plan to take a Ph.D. in history ... by next March, 2003."

At the time he was working on his dissertation, Corona was chief of staff of then President Arroyo. He enthused: "My classmates in UST are very young. They would ask, 'Why are you still studying?' You're already in the Cabinet. It would imply it's because of my drive for academic excellence."

This means that Corona started to underwork on his Ph.D. in 2000 or 2001 since the usual units required was 60. He graduated in 2011, during which he was busy as Chief Justice.

Clearly, he overstayed as a doctoral student and should not have qualified for honors.

It was unclear why Corona, knowing UST's requirements, requested the degree and the honors. Professor Ma. Theresa Gozo-Gonzales, dean of the Graduate School, did not respond to our questions.

This is not the first time that questions have been raised about Corona's academic record. The book, "Shadow of Doubt: Probing the Supreme Court," found that his claim that he graduated with honors from his bachelor of Arts degree at the Ateneo University is not recorded in the university's archives. With a report from Purple Romero, contributor

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE Chief Justice Renato Corona bonds before UST Rector Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, OP during his investitures as doctor of philosophia, summa cum laude, in a special graduation ceremony at the University of Santo Tomas on April 2, 2011.

Red Cross to build 1,000 homes on Jesuit land

From page A1

tina at the resettlement site. Gordon said it was the first partnership between the private sector and the PRC in building homes for families displaced by Sendong.

Gordon said the Red Cross would build 1,000 shelters, initially, as soon as the land was ready with basic services and provision for livelihood.

Pang pointed out that such single detached house, with an area of 28 square meters, would cost only P300,000 each. The Jesuits property in Barangay Lumbia, Cagayan de Oro, donated under usufruct rights by the Jesuit-owned Xavier University.

Usufruct is the legal right granted to a person or entity to use and derive profit or benefit from a property that either belongs to another person or which is under common ownership, as long as the property is not damaged or destroyed.

Ownership after 15 years

"They (evacuees) do not have to pay to live in these homes. They only have to pay for utilities like water and electricity," Pang told the Inquirer.

The PRC secretary general said that although the shelters "primarily will be owned by Xavier University, ownership could be transferred to the home dweller after 15 years of occupying the lot.

"Families would be provided basic construction materials for the house but they won't actually get to own them once they would want their homes to look," she said.

Evacuees are currently staying in 20-sq. m tents on the property donated by the university.

Livelihood programs will be introduced to the community after the families have settled. "If they want to, they could create an association among homeowners and get loan from members so they could maintain their community," Teng said.

Temporary tents

Conrad Naraval, shelter cluster facilitator at the department of social welfare's command center in Cagayan de Oro said tents had been erected since yesterday at the relocation site in Barangay Lumbia.

For now, some 300 families can be accommodated in the relocation site. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the city government will choose the families who will be allowed to stay there. The families who are staying in public schools, as well those in danger zones like Isla de Oro and Barangay Cauayan-Cala will be given priority.

But Naraval said only 2 ha of the Xavier University-donated land would be allowed for occupancy for now. "The evacuees will not be moved to needy areas if they do not wish to do so," he said.

This week, the evacuees will be brought to the area for a "go and see" visit.

Other relocation sites

Apart from the 1,000 beneficiaries of the PRC's housing project, Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said the construction of houses for Sendong victims on a barangay Isla de Oro property and Camaman, Rodriguez said.

The city has also allocated nine hectares of property in Barangay Cauayan for the relocation of typhoon victims, Cagayan de Oro Councilor Nadya Faye Tagarao said.

The property, she said, was part of the 64 ha that the city government bought in 1998 for its resettlement program.

Tagarao said a Filipino-Chinese businessman, who wished to remain anonymous, offered to handwell the building—initially—of 300 houses in Cauayan for Sendong victims. The businessman has offered to build about 1,000 houses on the property, she said.

Iligan housing

In Iligan City, Senator Escudero, 71, whose family lost their house and aeroplanes store from the flood brought by sendong, said they have enough land and a chainsaw contractor. "What we need is a house so we can start a new life," she said.

With her husband still missing, she hopes to rebuild their livelihood along with the only child who stays with her who is also searching for the missing husband and daughter.

Bagaporo dreads the thought of going back to Buyog Island where she raised five children with husband Antonio since 1958.

Santa Elena village

At the start of the year, the local government hopes to address the housing needs of the evacuees. Underway is the building of a 12-ha subdivision in Santa Elena village where some of the flood evacuees will be resettled.

The land is owned by National Steel Corp. (NSC), which is under receivership. The local government hopes to acquire the property through a "dacion en pago" arrangement to settle some of NSC's outstanding tax liabilities.

On Thursday, a team of geodetic engineers from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and the city surveyor's office conducted a survey of the area.

Dr. Pilar, the local government's Housing and Development Office convened a team of design engineers and architects to come up with a subdivision plan.

City Administrator Atty. Odilon Melvin Angpit said the subdivision plan was expected to be completed within a week, along with other legal requisites like the housing and land-use ordinance and Philippine Concrete Authority clearance to cut coconut trees in the converted area.

Permanent solution sought

Earlier, Mayor Lawyerson Cruz said any relocation effort must be "a permanent solution" to the housing needs of the evacuees.

The resettlement plan will be based on the core shelter standards set by the DSWD—a house with a floor area of 60 sq. m on 60 sq. m lot. The DSWD's typhoon village which is based on a cost of P75,000 per housing unit. For each unit, the Iligan local government will provide an additional P50,000 "to ensure there would come out decent," said Angpit.

Executive Director Ric Gamal Kalinga, Habitat for Humanity and EcoPark have been identified as possible partners in building the homes. EcoPark has started producing lumber out of the "killer logs" along the Iligan coast.

UP geohazard map

Angpit said the results of a geohazard mapping done by the University of the Philippines' National Institute for Geological Sciences would provide the local government in declaring areas as "no go zones" for settlement.

Those who were left homeless by the flood are come from three geologically hazardous areas—the proposed relocation sites being back three and would be told to resettle, Angpit added.

He said by the flood were the villages of Santa Felomina, Upper Hinaplanon, Mahayahay Proper and Santiago.

The hardest hit families whose houses were "totally washed out" and who need to live in geohazardous areas would be the priority for relocation.

Apart from the Santa Elena land, the local government is looking at a 2-ha lot in Santa Felomina village and an 8-ha property owned by NSC in Saaver village.

As of Dec. 29, the City Social Welfare and Development Office reported 6,281 families "totally damaged" houses to 26 barangays as a result of the flood. About 10,617 more houses were "partially damaged."

Olongapo mayor's wife goes home to CDO to bury sister

From page A1

he got about it ever."

The efforts of Dragnet Bicycle Club in Manila, that's nothing. Bodies were piled up everywhere and funeral parlors were running away the dead because they couldn't handle them," she said.

"For you to understand what happened, you have to be there. Only a few structures remained. Even concrete houses [were] destroyed," she said.

But she believes that like the residents of Olongapo after the city was ravaged by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption 20 years ago, the people of Cagayan de Oro will be able to recover and to build them lives.

Gordon, a former vice governor of Zambales, snapped out of his grief and tight away started a campaign to bring cash donations and relief goods to the city.

"Helping out in times of calamity is not something new to us here in Olongapo. We've always done this. For example, when strong typhoons hit Bataan, Zambales, we were the first ones there. Then-time, however, it's personal because of my sister," she said.

'Torpedoed in the darkness'

According to Gordon, Susan was the sixth of nine children. Her family operated a farm and a store in Cagayan de Oro.

Susan, her husband and son were on the second floor of their house when rampaging flood waters, which carried mud, rocks and logs, crashed into their house and swept them away.

"The couldn't swim and the floodwaters were as high as a three-story building, with mud and logs. They darkened everything in their path," Gordon said.

It took two days for Susan's body to be found. She was identified by her husband only through the nail polish on her toenails and dental marks.

Susan's bloated body was found in another village and placed in a morgue, along with other victims of Sendong.

According to Mayor Gordon,

SAD HOMECOMING Former Zambales Vice Gov. Mona Gordon (left) went to Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Vicente Emano's residence at the Office of Tropical Storm "Sendong." Mona, wife of Olongapo City Mayor James Gordon Jr., is from Cagayan de Oro.

Susan's face was struck by a log so that "they couldn't identify her immediately."

"There were hundreds in [the village of Macasandig] who drowned in the darkness. The illegally-cut trees became torpedoes that smashed even concrete houses to pieces. Susan's house was one of them. I was told that her family stayed on the second floor of their home. Since there really was nothing that could be done, they just hugged each other as their home was destroyed and they were swept away," he said.

Outpouring of help

Mayor Gordon said there was an outpouring of aid in Olongapo City for the victims of Sendong in Mindanao.

"We were able to solicit the assistance of Executive Secretary [Paquito] Ochoa and he [did so] to give what they can. From [Olongapo's] business community [we] spreaded to this call," he said.

Imelda Pineda, president of the Metro Olongapo Chamber of Commerce, said the money solicited from members were turned over to Gordon so this could be given to officials and groups involved in relief and rehabilitation efforts in Cagayan de Oro City.

"We still also send additional assistance there. [Our local] relief team, the [MCDP-PIR] and the [GO-AM], also had a fundraising telethon," he said.

In Butuan, the Catholic Diocese of Malaybalay donated P600,000 to typhoon victims in Cagayan de Oro, Iligan and Dumaguete City.

Malaybay Bishop Raperto Santos said the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro received P424,532 while the dioceses of Iligan and Dumaguete received P224,721.20 and P149,814.80, respectively.

"We are praying for them and in solidarity to help," Santos said.

Gordon said she turned over the cash donations from Olongapo to Cagayan de Oro Mayor Vicente Emano.

"I empathize with the victims as I too lost a member of my family and I hope the donations sent by the city government of Olongapo and to people could help the victims in any way possible," she said.

Former Sen. Richard Gordon, Gordon's brother-in-law and chair of the Philippine Red Cross who was already in Cagayan de Oro helping the flood victims when she arrived, said one of the priorities of the Red Cross is to relocate the families displaced by the floods to safer locations, like Iligan City.

"We are going to build homes [for the displaced residents of Cagayan de Oro]. But right now, we're already provided tents for them," he said. With a report from Rosette Orejas, inquirer Central Luzon

With more way
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we can all look forward to

s than ever to
ss love
a wonderful year ahead.

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OPINION

Send us your feedback: inquirer.opinion@gmail.com or inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

We fervently pray. . .

IT MAY not have been a totally disappointing year but it was neither exactly the year we dreamt of. After the raised expectations of 2010, the year 2011 just seemed to get worse the further it went on. War raged on. Crimes continued to be committed with impunity. Stirring words blew with frowning, and rains fell, triggering deadly floods. And bad things just kept happening due to either

EDITORIAL

human folly or bad luck, or a combination of both. Then as the year was coming to a close, another destructive natural disaster struck and left the nation to its darkest holiday season in recent memory. But now comes the time to reflect on the year past and pray for the year to come.

So we pray first for peace. Both soldiers and non-combatants are dying in the North and in the South. The war down South, in particular, saw a shocking spasm of violence that resulted in high casualties in Basilan and Zamboanga. The government of President Aquino found itself pressed into an escalating conflict with the Muslim extremists in Mindanao but could not afford to ignore the continuing attacks of the New People's Army elsewhere in the country. The fighting wouldn't stop and some of our brightest and bravest soldiers came home in flag-draped coffins.

The cannon go on. We pray for ceasefire and conciliation with the communist rebels as well as with the Muslim separatists, for only then can the nation be said to be truly at peace with itself. We also pray for a stop to the rising wave of dangerous, violent crimes done by people with very little, if any, regard for the lives of others, just for a car or a few thousand pesos. Most of all, we pray for an end to a culture of impunity.

We pray for vigilance. In a year where even nature seemed to turn against us, we took the values of safety. While the weather itself cannot be controlled, we do expect our government agencies tasked with tracking it to be vigilant and effective. If there is anything we have learned from terrible tropical storms like 2009's "Ondoy" and 2011's "Sendong," it is that government needs to prioritize the allocation of funds and resources for both the detection of dangerous weather disturbances as well as for flood prevention. Then it needs to make sure those displaced by the typhoons will be provided shelter as well as sustenance. The Aquino administration needs to listen to experts and seek to mitigate the effects of devastating and deadly storms, perhaps by resolutely enforcing the logging ban and reviewing the development of human-land areas. It is time to relearn all measures to make sure we will never be caught so badly unaware by yet another weather disturbance.

We pray for justice. The Filipino people deserve a justice system that not only works but one which has the nation's best interests in mind. Filipinos deserve a Supreme Court they can look up to and a government they can believe in. With the Judiciary and the Executive locked in what seems to be a no-win situation, we pray for a swift and fair impeachment trial and for reconciliation from both sides of the aisle. We pray that all Filipinos, rich and poor, young and old, go about their lives with a newfound respect for the rule of law and an intelligent obedience to the laws of the land. We ask that all those who enforce the law do so with a healthy respect for civilians and with an understanding for the reasoning behind those same laws. Let the guilty, regardless of who they are, be punished.

Finally, we pray for prosperity. We ask this for all Filipinos, but most of all, for those who have nothing. More and more Filipinos are sliding down into poverty. A sluggish economy keeps unemployment high. Once again the Aquino administration should lead the way to create more jobs. This is the only way to truly fight the growing specter of poverty, the only way to lift Filipinos from poverty and give them the decent future they seek.

We pray for all this because, even at the deepest end of our sorrow and despair, we Filipinos remain hopeful that better days are coming. This is the most resilient and hopeful people on earth. It is our identity as a people, our ability to overcome doubt by simply believing that things will get better—and to do what we each can to make sure that happens. Now is the best time to continue to believe in the self and the hope of the Filipino people, right here in the New Year, right here in the very beginning of 2012.

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Standard time

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

COUNTDOWN TO the first minute of the New Year was a game that my children loved to play when they were younger. The TV would be set to one channel where a digital clock shows the time. The whole family would gather in front of the television, in its comforting role as god of time, and follow the flashing of the last seconds of the old year, to the final seconds (ten, seven, two and) each other and to exchange hugs and kisses in gratitude and hope. But, easy of the kids would then switch the television to another channel, where almost always another countdown is still going on. For them that is the real one, and so they would go through another round of hugs and kisses.

I guess this is the last year this charming parenting game is going to be played. The Department of Science and Technology has recently prescribed a Philippine Standard Time (PST) that every TV station, every office and school will be obliged to follow. It is not by chance, the government's weather agency and is therefore supposedly the most precise time-telling instrument available. The official time can be accessed at www.pagasa.gov.ph.

Whether official time is the one true time is another matter. We were lulled to that standard time in just one more of those social constructs that are formed by deliberate agreement or by habit. They are the "articles of faith" that make the world in which we live more bearable and manageable. That they work for us does not however necessarily prove they are true. Like many things—official, standard time can be an illusion. As Nietzsche said: "We have arranged for ourselves a world in which we can live—by positing bodies, lines, planes, causes and effects, motion and rest, form and outcome; with our these articles of faith nobody now could endure life. But that does not prove them. Life is no argument. The conditions of life might include error."

Even more to the point, standard time may make life more pleasant for the urban commuter who must rely on the precise arrival and departure times of trains and buses. But it is totally irrelevant when the modes of mass transport themselves are not bound to any definite schedules except for the most general estimated times. This doesn't make a mockery nevertheless of professional Filipinos have lived with skewed plans and busy activities and departures for as long if no indefinite waiting has become second nature to them.

PST would make no difference either to farmers and fisherfolk whose life rhythms are dictated basically by the seasons, the tides, the winds, and the rising and setting of the sun. But a common time becomes essential when fast trains have to share the same tracks, when rising frequency of slow runners could spell the difference between life and death. It also becomes crucial when people's lives have become fuller and more differentiated, such that a day must be parceled out precisely to ensure that one activity does not encroach upon another. Filipino workers abroad who find themselves holding down two or three jobs with different employers know this only too well. They must observe exact times and such like everyone else in the host country if they are to survive.

Thus, on any given day they learn to juggle various tasks within a single time horizon. Clearly, it is not so much the existence of standard time that makes Filipinos like this, as it is the emergence of a life that is rich in complexity and no longer one-dimensional. We are already seeing patches of this modern way of life take shape in our own society but they remain isolated fragments of the national life rather than the norm. We are modern time-consciousness in the growing community of call center employees, who usually work at night. While the rest of the country sleeps, they remain awake, fully attuned to the time and rational horizon of the overseas clients they are serving at any given time.

So some of their shift ends they go hard to a physical world whose time horizon is different from the one they inhabited just a few moments ago. This discontinuity makes them highly sensitive to the plurality of temporal worlds that cannot be fitted into one common chronology. Chronology implies successive or progressive time. Time, on the other hand, is a way of interpreting reality in terms of the difference between the past and the future. They should not be confused with one another, because different cultures have different interpretations of what is past and what is future, which accounts for why we are bound to vary. This would partly explain the saying, "the more things change, the more they remain the same." Time tends to be closer to traditional society, and late in complex modern society.

Precise time as a departure from the emergence of a functionally differentiated society. It is not the same. One does not come to called "Filipino time" by merely prescribing and requiring adherence to a standard official time. Filipino time is a function of traditional society, a society marked by life-worlds by disunyoual integration by the privileges enjoyed by the powerful and the uncertainties that constitute the lot of the powerless. Filipinos will demand a common time for the whole nation as soon as a few individuals are no longer given the privilege to come late, and the rest of us no longer believe that waiting indefinitely is part of our way of life.

Happy New Year!

* * *

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Unli(mited) and Unco(nditional)

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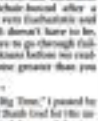

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THIS STORY is told about a man who passed and went into Christmas message: "Dead my in-nends (baptismal godchildren), in order to get a gift from me, please bring with you your birth certificate, baptismal certificate and your baptismal picture with me. Deadline for claiming gift is until Dec. 31, 2011 only."

* * *

This first day of the New Year is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God, who is with us every single day of the year. She is also our mother who loves us in an unlimited and unconditional way.

* * *

This Sunday is also a day of World Peace. It is our fervent prayer that our world will take the road of harmony and peace and leave behind the road of violence and tyranny. May we learn to live as brothers and sisters, to touch and go beyond the roadblocks and limits we have set on each other. No more walls, no more wars. Peace!

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 2, 15-21) we hear of the shepherds who visited Joseph, Mary and the infant in the manger. They were witnesses of the Divine Plan unfolding before their very eyes just as it had been foretold. Indeed, God is faithful. As we face the new year ahead, let us be confident that there is someone in control and that this someone is a faithful and loving God.

* * *

The Incarnation started with simple people of humble beginnings. Why? Perhaps God wanted to make sure that His plan would be carried out. In other words, God needs obedient exiles than efficient people to carry out His plan. God has a hard time dealing with those who are big, or who think of themselves as big.

* * *

Last Christmas Eve, I visited a fellow priest in a retirement house. He used to be "big time" in his younger days. He was popular and powerful, and he was always on the go, then. It was a different brother priest I met to a very simple room that Christmas morning. Now wheelchair-bound after a stroke, he has become very enthusiastic and gracious, and humble. It doesn't have to be, but I hope we don't have to go through failures, infirmities or setbacks before we realize that there is someone greater than you and I.

* * *

After visiting "Father's Big Time," I passed by the chapel to pause and thank God for His unconditional and unlimited love and forgiveness for myself as well. So, unworthy as we are, God continues to call and use us. Yes, God is merciful, generous, understanding. It is really he who is "Perfect Big Time"!

* * *

It is not as if there was sum of everything happening. As the events of the Incarnation unfolded, she was constantly surprised and amazed, "reflecting on them in her heart." Like Mary, may we continue to be treasurers in our belief that God has a plan, and trust He makes all things beautiful in His time. There are many things we cannot explain or understand in this life. We just continue to believe.

* * *

As we start our journey in 2012, let us not forget to bring along with us "a prayer in our pockets, a smile on our faces, and love in our hearts." These are the most basic provisions we need as we journey on.

* * *

Please remember not for that no matter what we do, 2012 will unfold one day at a time. So, one basic rule is that we should keep pressing the fast-forward button and the rewind button. Let it play. Let it be. One day at a time.

* * *

Here's a beautiful reminder for 2012: That for today, decide to be happy and to live with what is yours. If you can't have what you want, maybe you can like what you have. Ask for today, desire to be kind, cheerful, agreeable and understanding. Be your best, talk kindly, be optimistic, praise people. Try it, after all, it is just for a day. Who knows, you might like it, and do it again tomorrow?

* * *

I like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped make 2011 beautiful with their prayers, gifts and messages. Thank you too for those who criticized or corrected us. What matters is that we did what we did for love.

* * *

One thing we need to balance in our journey is that of getting things done and being one. Let us not become so busy becoming a somebody with all our functions, and to forget to be a someone as a person. In other words, we must balance between being on call for our people and being online with God; being a missionary and being a religious.

* * *

Christmas is not just a day. It is a spirit we carry with us all throughout the 365 days ahead of us. Here's wishing you all Christmas spirit-filled days all throughout the New Year. A happy and better New Year ahead, in all aspects, in Jesus' name!

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, thank you for your unlimited and unconditional love for me. Help me to try to love likewise. Amen.

Blessings and thanks

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio U. Pangyarihan

IS THIS how Nas drama, I think we should all count our blessings and thank the Lord for every new day in for me, when I retired from the Supreme Court in December 2006, I thought that my workdays were over and that I would just pursue my "MOMdates" tending my 10 wonderful grandchildren. Little did I know that retirement really meant a change of focus to prepare for a new journey.

New journey. My new journey started when business titan Manuel Pinto invited me to write his page. A few days later, my good friend, Benny Antolin, invited me to become a member of Meralco and asked me to be an independent director of DMCI Homes, a media post I thought complemented my business column.

But the blessings did not end there. One after another came more invitations to sit as independent director or advisor to other blue-chips, including list no particular order: Mercator, PLDT, Petron, Metrobank, First Philippine Holdings, Metro Pacific Investments, Metro Pacific Tollways, BPI, Robinsons Land, Ayala Land and Asian Terminals.

Being an independent director, I do not represent the interest of any shareholder. My main task is to diligently study, understand and make sure that the corporate governance standards are not by law are observed. Given that the independence and integrity expected of independent directors are similar to those of jurists, I feel as now performing my work in these companies.

For those who wonder, no, this new journey benefited new meaning and purpose into my service ethics and impelled me to study and reflect on the challenges of new technologies, economics and businesses; challenges that make my work also my source of refreshment and fulfillment.

New blessings. Beyond joining my weekly writings, the business is publishing a new book in my honor, titled "With Due Respect." In between, his graduate studies in Harvard, business editor Alex Nery synthesized my columns during the last five years to create a new tome. It is the first of two electronic books (e-books) produced by the Inquirer Group (the second is authored by Isidro Rabino, a fellow columnist and respected economist). For this milestone treated us my 75th birthday, I thank the business.

The book is now available in its digital form. Download the iPad app at http://bit.ly/inq-digital-ios and for Android-powered mobile devices at http://bit.ly/inq-digital-android). Hard copies are sold at P650 each from the Inquirer Marketing Office, c/o Bianca Bueno Pikachu@inq.com.ph, or manila.inq or at Inquirer Classified Sub-branches. Soon, it will be available at your favorite bookshops.

May I also say "memorial salamat po" to the San Beda Law Alumni Association, chaired by classmates Ace Cruz of the Genesis ACCRA Law Office, for hosting a now-open room in San Beda College and christening it in my honor.

I likewise thank the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center Inc. (PDRCI) for naming its now administrative unit, the first and only one to be named as the Chief Justice Hospicillo Administration Center. For the project was made possible by Mary and Sylvia Lim who donated the funds for the court, etc., furnishings and equipment of the center, located adjacent to the new headquarters of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry at McKinley Hill in Fort Bonifacio.

Actually, I feel a little awkward that these projects, which were timed for my 75th birthday last month, are being named after me, a living person. But what can I really do, except to humbly thank the donors for the undeserved honor.

How ways to say "Thank You." To gratitude for those conquering of generosity, may I modify to quoted with my own grams to two worthy causes. First, as many know, I was a newsboy during my under years. I was deeply touched when, upon learning I was among the topnotchers in the 1968 bar examination, the newspaper dealer—from whom I got the papers I peddled—threw a party. 50 years ago for the newsboys of Catabaco Street, Tompkins, Manila.

To help educate my fellow newspaper hawkers, I am donating my one year income as a columnist to the Inquirer Newsboys Foundation. When I mentioned my intended donation to business tycoon Andy Tan's family Private Foundation, the team answered that the foundation's offered to double the amount, so now the number of newsboys would get the opportunity to study and perhaps have a chance to be chief justice 50 years from now.

My second donation: amounting to half of my retirement pay from the Supreme Court goes to the Foundation for Liberty and Prosperity. That newly formed foundation seeks to continue the reforms I started during my judicial term and to implement my own legal philosophy of "liberty and prosperity under the rule of law."

Under this philosophy, the judiciary and the legal profession must continue to uphold the political liberty of our people but must also nurture their prosperity and economic well-being. I believe that justice and jobs, freedom and food, democracy and development, peace and progress, ethics and economics, my library and prosperity go hand in hand, and that one is useless without the other.

Accordingly, the foundation will (1) set up professorial chairs, scholarships and legal research facilities; (2) craft new school curricula that teach not only what is prohibited but also what is legally and ethically possible to solve festering business and social problems; (3) hold seminars in law schools, bar associations, media groups and business organizations; (4) establish a Center for Liberty and Prosperity; and similar projects.

(Comments to abc@inquirer.com.ph@hotmail.com)

Second-class citizens

THIS CHRISTMAS season, thousands of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) will have had their constitutional rights violated at the world's worst airport.

I met Nairi one Sunday evening at Nida 1. He skipped dinner with his family, not wanting to risk a long Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) desk queue and miss the 2:30 a.m. flight back to Singapore. As elite ma-

Oscar Franklin Tan

COMMENTARY

nagers in the global investment bank, he is one of thousands of young professionals in Singapore and Hong Kong juggling precious short trips home with an international career. He is one of thousands of young professionals compelled to sacrificing brief reconnects with their families for those POEA queues.

After only four Christmas home, I found myself begging a POEA officer to tame my clearance because my plane was taking off in 30 minutes. Without looking up, he sternly ordered me to return to the queue and wait. I bounded only after starting down the guard at immigration, claiming to be a tourist.

It is an open secret that the POEA was formed by torturers left jobless by Edsa. In Singapore, I must travel during office hours to our embassy, not the more accessible of places, to purchase an Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC). My papers are never checked and I routinely waste conflicting information in the forms. (I will try "drug trade" on my next OEC). I must then leave the OEC certified at Nida's POEA desk for me to register to Nida.

Being the world's worst airport, Nida 1 requires Filipinos to queue outside to enter, foreigners have benefits who share "Business class, business class!" and ask Filipinos, guards included, to make way. Because the POEA desk is sufficiently located outside the departure area, one better be early to first queue at the POEA desk there, queue to enter Nida 1, before one's check-in counter closes. One may be fortunate queue to enter, queue to check in, exit Nida 1 to queue at the POEA desk, then queue (or again) to reenter. Especially if a 747-load of travelers to Los Angeles intervenes, one can readily miss one's flight and get fired.

The last years in check-in, and immigration officers ask to see my Singapore employment pass anyway. Shown my hard-won OEC, they explain that it and the POEA certification may be fake.

Amid such silliness, picture OFWs clutching stash envelopes of documents and their last shreds of dignity as they make obeisance to the POEA. Picture a Filipino professional, trying to be taken seriously in an international team, forced to beg one's colleagues to leave early for the airport because his OEC might be declared fake.

And that is just Nida, imagine the hell that is the main POEA office that Stella Cruzados visited. (NB: The abra-cadabra Angel Jose Cruzados who stalking POEA offices who cannot because Cruz for not praising my visionary or not arriving three hours before my flight. Be sure to queue by the long-hauled Malaysian cab that forbidden.) Ironically, an OFW may escape becoming a second-class citizen in one's own airport by giving up his citizenship.

My answer to Nairi and Nida for our Constitution's invalid sentence: "Neither shall the right to travel be impaired except in the interest of national security, public safety, or public health, as may be provided by law." The Supreme Court reiterates that the right to travel is a fundamental human right, and one recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Philippine Constitution does not state the explicit list of exceptions "national security, public safety, or public health" is "a reaction to the ban on international travel imposed under [Marcos] when there was a Travel Processing Center."

Well, that is of Senator Enrique A. Zobel, in upholding a senator's ban on travel to Hong Kong. Zobel, in specified reasons, categorically stated: "Said the ban here given universal applicability, that it would have been unreasonable and arbitrary." Thus, the POEA's blanket curtailment of the right to travel is blatantly unconstitutional. So does Franchised say. OFWs that the right to travel only restricted attention to "national security, public safety, or public health." Not least travel to awake it, halls and chains on every single OFW have long gone ignored.

There are undeniably difficult policy issues. One Singapore consuls regularly work stretches for desperate Filipinos with an outbound heads for getting duped, down to robbing detainees in Orang Women's Prison who were overseas domestic jobs. The Singapore embassy assistance to an OFW population three times the size to staff can theoretically support. Nevertheless, convoluted, inefficient procedures imposed on everyone are an unconstitutional abuse, not a solution.

Singapore's OFW profile is evolving, even the Circle of the Bank of Singapore and Credit Suisse are OFWs. The growing majority are now professionals who do not need or want the POEA's so-called protection. OFWs remain treated as the perfect docile cash cows, valuables in government as for open items for and procedure upon items procedures are foreigner upon us. It is not an option but a constitutional imperative for the national way to protect those who expand protection while respecting the general population's right to travel.

I have already accepted the burdens of proudly being a citizen of our universal opportunity. But it is too much to ask that the POEA leave stranded families to have dinner in peace?

The constitutional right to travel is not a privilege to be granted after the Marcos era abates or it is too much to ask that it not be violated, in the creation of rooms, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport?

It is too much to uphold our right to be free from the POEA?

Oscar Franklin Tan was chair of the Philippine Law Journal in 2003 and student speaker at his 2007 Harvard Law School graduation. He twice won the Cecil Peter in Constitutional Law at the UP College of Law. He has worked as a corporate lawyer in London and Singapore and is an associate of Jones Day, one of the world's largest law firms.

Stewardship on '010112'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

JUST TYPING the dog line to this column gave me the chills. Email ID3... another day another start to a brand new year. You'd think, as we grow older, that the passage of years would be so remarkable, that each year blends and melts into the next, and that time would simply flow like a river, each day a ripple that enters other ripples and finds its own watery path to the ever-patient ocean, both rapid and calm, streaming a great sameness.

But it doesn't quite end up that way. Every time a new year rounds the corner, a frisson of excitement builds up, despite experience and memory telling you that a year is what you make of it. Still, the thrill of the unknown beckons, promising you with seamless ease. Be. What if the coming year does bring the promise of prosperity long longed for and doubted? What if the family business gets that much-needed shot in the arm, or send it in an entirely unexpected direction? What if the family finally gets a house of their own, the long-dreamed-of job that would finally fill our expectations of fulfillment, worthy romances and professional recognition?

Of course, the obverse is true, too. The new year could usher in changes that are as unwelcome as they are unexpected. Storms and typhoons could give you a nasty wake-up call, as they have been doing with distressing frequency in recent years. Markets could crash, political systems could spin out into chaos and war, you could unknowingly contract a lethal microbe and end up in the ICU, or fall victim to a predatory and social life. Life is full of the unexpected. At the end of the day, that's what makes it.

So as this first day of 2012, can face a temporary crossroads. But whichever road you choose, events will play out without your knowledge or willingness.

The only thing you have power over is your attitude. You are supposed to the next 360 days with hope, elation and trust. Or you can choose to be hopeless—not to make up each day with a stupid Pollyanna-ish face your face, but rather to resolve to battle the higher side of every situation, to see the rosy gone, no matter how bad it seems at the moment.

This is what "010112" has before you: the power to choose between surrender or stewardship to bear all with the steadfastness of a mentor, or

We don't care about others as long as we're happy. Unfortunately this darkness has invaded our hearts to the point that even the people believe in church. When people enter the church most would always choose the end seat (so that it is more convenient to exit), never mind that others who come after them would proactively have to do the "climb over" to get to their empty spaces. Another typical example is when we observe that our church is dirty. We complain to the priest about it, even request to have it announced, but we don't do anything to help clean the church.

When we see somebody suffering, we are moved to help, but we delay our decisions, "deadma" as the colloquialism goes, to other words, "walang pakiramdam"? This attitude reminds me of the monkey, who couldn't let go despite the risk of being caught, of being hurt. It is the monkey's greed that puts him in a situation of no-exit. Fruit with a hole just big enough for a monkey to insert his hand. In its desire to get the banana, the monkey inserts and then gets its hand stuck in the coconut. As long as it holds the banana, the monkey is happy. People are like that, they cannot let go of their greed, their desires, and they cannot see that because the blessings of God because they don't have the open hands to receive them. Mahatma Gandhi says: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Stewardship is a culture of abundance. We don't see ourselves as victims. Thus, Taleon: "Because we like our waste that makes one more chimp. To quench our thirst, we need pure water. If we want to practice stewardship we should ask ourselves: 'If I don't give what will happen to me?' And conversely, 'What will happen to the other, to my fellow human being?'"

A good steward is sensitive to the needs of others and does something about it. God gives all of us the graces of compassion and charity. We will be good stewards if we apply God's grace to serve others.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mk 10:45)

Pakistan on the precipice

WORLD VIEW

Shahid Javed Burki

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari abruptly returned to Karachi on the morning of Dec. 19, following a 15-day absence for medical treatment in Dubai, where he lived while in exile. The government issued no formal statement about Zardari's health, but his aides reported he suffered a mild stroke, which left his memory loss for several minutes.

Zardari's sudden return fueled speculation about his future but, more importantly, about the future of political risk in Pakistan. His decision followed a three-hour meeting between Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani and Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, the Pakistan army's chief. His choice of Kayani, Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and its political base, rather than Islamabad, the country's capital—suggests the depth of the crisis over rumbling between the two.

Zardari has held power since 2008, having been elected eight months after the assassination of his wife, Benazir Bhutto. Even after a constitutional amendment in 2010 made the prime minister the country's chief executive, Zardari has continued to be the most decisive player in the political time in Pakistan, keeping with South Asia's tradition of quasi-democratic dynastic politics by assumed leadership of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP)—founded in 1967 by her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto—and appointed his son Bilawal as the party's co-chair, leaving his decision on a handpicked prime minister. To maintain power, the link, the army was retained Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

But having deftly out-maneuvered his opponents for their reach, Zardari appears to have misread the current political environment, for him. Many in the army appear to be unhappy with his and father-in-law's unbridled power. By trying to play by the old rules, to consolidate several regimes that may ultimately cost him his job and the

against her, Zardari, and several of their friends and associates, Bhutto agreed to support Musharraf after the elections scheduled for December 2007. The Bush administration, eager to have a democratically elected government in Pakistan to cooperate in the fight against terrorism, was believed to have brokered the agreement.

The arrangement has now been struck down by the Supreme Court, which ordered the government to reopen corruption cases, including one in Switzerland, where Zardari is alleged to have pocketed tens of millions of dollars. The government balked, and now the court is working to ensure that the successor branch carries out its orders.

But Zardari's decision to begin grooming his 23-year-old son for power may have been his greatest mistake. Bakhtiar Ali Bhutto assumed leadership and daughter to be the PPP's co-chairperson in case he was executed by the military regime that had overthrown him. Benazir Bhutto, in fact, placed control of the party in the hands of her husband and son. But this time, an established military was not inclined to readily accept such political leadership could be passed on so easily from father to son, daughter to son, from wife to husband, from father to son.

Political change in Pakistan is assured, but it will come about in a way that cannot be foreseen. The Arab Spring, America's declining influence in the Middle East and the anti-Western demonstrations in Israel have combined to create an environment in which the unprecedented and the unpredictable are the only certainties.

Project Syndicate

Shahid Javed Burki, former finance minister of Pakistan and vice president of the World Bank, is currently chair of the Institute of Public Policy, Lahore.

THEY SAID

Rice exporter 2014

"After 2013, we will be self-sufficient. By 2014, we should not import anymore. We should start exporting. That's another reason why we are working hard now."
—Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala, in an interview. He is the only rice-deficient country in the region.

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TALK of the TOWN

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Edna Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

PHILIPPINE CLIMATE-CHANGE IMPERATIVE

Building resilience and adaptation

The sooner we realize that disasters are never natural but always a product of hazard and history, that a people's vulnerability is not a given or of plain bad derivative from the past, the better we are likely to understand what face we might want to be in a world of changing climate.
Scott Dacs, Harvard International Review, 2011

By J.R. Herson Acosta, Ph.D.

WHEN climate change-driven or exacerbated disasters like Ondoy, Pepeng, Frederic, Pedring or Sendong strike, their impact is far-reaching, protracted and nonlinear. A river swelling its banks and sweeping everything in its torrential path is not only a calamitous occurrence that affects communities in its basin or littoral areas. Deforested swaths in once lush rainforests cause not just landslides or massive erosion in surrounding farmlands and villages.

When the Pasig of bizarre lumps, basins and livelihoods and have multimodes swiling in despair, everything we know to be stable or predictable, the quotidian rhythm of life, is displaced or grinds to a halt. In the aftermath of the catastrophic Sendong that pummeled Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, 50,000 people were rendered homeless, more than ortwo-and perished and hundreds more reported missing. But the far greater tragedy is the trauma and loss for people and families, a metaphysical dislocation as unmerciful and indefinable.

In Mindanao, new studies show that displaced individuals have chosen to stay—more than 800,000—left their homes and farms not primarily because of the disasters old Muslim-Christian conflict in the region, but because of climate-related or induced conditions.

Erratic weather

The erratic weather patterns—longer El Niño droughts or flood-plagued La Niña years with—plight people and families in lowlands and villages in the last three years, massive flooding occurred offseasons, more frequently and for longer periods in areas like Cotabato, Bukidnon, Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

In the last quarter of 2011, urban centers of Pampanga and Bulacan were inundated for weeks, driving thousands out of their homes.

Climate refugees

This is the phenomenon of what the United Nations calls the exodus, plying of "climate refugees," which we now increasingly see in many more parts of the world in the wake of calamities that have become more frequent, more ferocious and more destructive.

The United Nations Institute for Environment and Human Security ranks the Philippines the third most vulnerable country to climate change, given its low-lying coastal communities, which means tidal and rivers towns and property can be extremely high and concentrated. Yet, the capacity to adapt to future risks is low, given weak infrastructure, high poverty incidence and overall lack of preparedness.

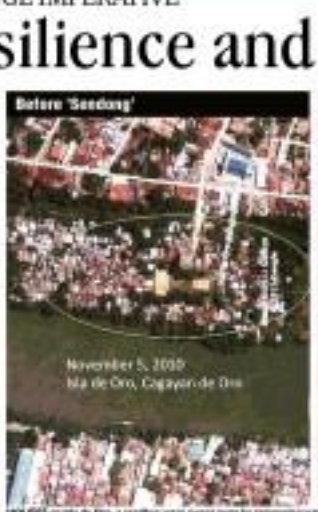
The environment is the only "social security system" of the poor. The Labor Force Survey discovers that 35 percent of the country's 10 million labor force is dedicated to agriculture, fisheries, and forestry—all dependent on coastal ecosystems, river basins and watersheds. The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority notes that if sea levels rise to 100 centimeters, 130,000 hectares of the country will be inundated, affecting over two million people.

Impending hot spots

In 2008 some of us on the west, connected from convened the Philippine Impression on Climate Change. This was an initiative taken by thinkers to climb scientific and academia, in collaboration with the business sector, to heighten understanding of climate-change impact and risks, and the necessary adaptation strategies local governments and businesses could take to reduce the risks. For industries this meant looking at alternatives to large carbon footprints, and having more efficient energy use and innovative management systems.

Our mapping of at least 15 vulnerable climate "hotspots" in the country showed that a combination of sea level rise, storm surges, increased flooding, loss of surrounding forest cover, siltation, subsidence and saltwater intrusion in lowlands and villages in the last three years, massive flooding occurred offseasons, more frequently and for longer periods in areas like Cotabato, Bukidnon, Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

In the last quarter of 2011, urban centers of Pampanga and Bulacan were inundated for weeks, driving thousands out of their homes.



HOUSES on Isla de Oro, a sandbar, were swept away by rampaging waters of Cagayan River when Tropical Storm "Sendong" hit Cagayan de Oro on Dec. 17.

FEW OF the houses on a bank of Cagayan River in Sitio Calaudo remained after the storm.

On a whole are highlighted the need to appreciate scientific information, build scenarios, and discursively plan and prepare for risk reduction or even "zero casualty" targets, as Albay under Gov. Joey Salceda has successfully done.

Risk areas, sometimes called "danger zones" or "doomsday advisories" do not resemble dialogues, many other communities embraced the urgency for climate change responses.

Paradigm shift

If rethinking becomes imperative in light of these climatic changes, how and where do we begin? How can we frame our development planning at the national and local levels, as we map and measure what framework has called "the new normal" of rising temperatures, intensifying typhoons, widespread flooding and increasing droughts?

We start with information and knowledge management. The wealth of empirical data with GIS and other satellite driven technology allows us to view and utilize scientific information in simple representations to the most sophisticated assemblage of graphs and maps at varied scale for prognostications, planning and policy-making.

We cannot manage that which we can not see, but what is invasive, or assume that which we are not able to map. When professors and researchers wear are identified, for example, land use planning by local communities can be rationalized.

It is also important that we are able to simulate scenarios and extrapolate from aggregated data, on well draft infrastructure programs differently. From here on, Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cannot rebuild roads or bridges in plan for new airports or seaports without studying where the impact would likely be or how extensive.

Homes and buildings will have to be near climate-smart or climate-proof, not simply as a matter of "green design," but of ensuring settlements are resilient and able to adapt to harsh environmental existences. And taking into account economic costs and benefits in the context of climate change realities, where and how we manage investments will be crucial.

Surely, investments in, say, agriculture or real estate cannot be made in a vacuum. Entire housing subdivisions in Iligan can be mapped, information on hazard and climate risks factored in.

In agriculture, climate-resistant varieties of rice or other crops will have to be cultivated. In other words, the appreciation of risk and risk management will have to change, redefining insurance systems altogether.

Institutions, governance

These are easier said than done, of course. But that is why governance and institutions are crucial. When government provides the platforms for interventions, it becomes a strong catalyst for business and other sectors to be engaged and for communities to act with a consensus direction—which is the best to do with ensuring early-warning systems, having quick-response and rescue mechanisms, or establishing long-term integrated information-networked, agro-industrial development, and human and gender programs.

That is why the National Climate Change Action Plan, which President Aquino signed in late November, mandates a clear accountability framework (led by the Climate Change Commission) 10-year roadmap for clear adaptation strategies. This Climate Change Plan is nominal as it is interlocking with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan as defined by Republic Act No. 10121...to identify the poorest and most vulnerable areas in the country.

These will have to be tied to government budgetary and policy support as well as private investments to effectively put these into place and practice.

But information, assessments and institutions on a whole will not have optimal result and interpretational impact if there is no sustained leadership that is driven both by integrity and imagination.

Looking forward

We need committed leaders who will boldly face political and economic challenges in the context of a complex and rapidly changing world, not only because of global warming and the advances of telecommunications, but also because of a fuller understanding of ecology and the fragility of the planet's life support systems.

We do not lack for human ingenuity and resilience. As WWF head Lory Tan spells out in an article for this series and where some of our continued risks will require the best possible use of local knowledge, local competence and local capacity. We cannot be trapped in what scholar Greg Bankoff calls "a culture of disaster," where the continuous threat of disasters is integrated into the schema of daily life.

Like the quote above, understanding the interplay of "hazard and history" should attract to the country for greater resilience, foresight and innocence—the success of adaptation.

(Dr. Acosta is Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection and concurrent head of the Laguna Lake Development Authority. As Bukidnon congressman for three terms (1998-2007), he principally authored several environmental laws, notably the Clean Air, Clean Water and Solid Waste Management Act.)

Business risks and climate change: New iteration

By Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan

WE CAN'T spend the next 40 years repairing damage. There must be a way to avoid the repeated loss of lives, and sidestep annual economic dislocations.

Over the last year, WWF and BPI Foundation studied four Philippine cities—Baguio, Cebu, Iloilo and Davao. Our objective was to take adaptation thinking to the next level and better understand what economic risks and opportunities lay in store for each city to a climate-defined future.

This is a highly abridged glimpse into what we discovered.

Approach

Why focus on cities? Urbanization is here. In developing economies, as much as 60 percent of the population may live in cities by midcentury. Governance becomes critical over the next few decades; our population will be close to 140 million. Unless we make the shifts now, Philippine cities may start past the limits of what is manageable and become centers of concentrated risk.

This exercise was not simply a vulnerability assessment. We used three sectors of analysis covering data on climate exposure, socioeconomic sensitivity and adaptive capacity. This information was then "ground-truthed" through scenario-building exercises with local stakeholders who pinpointed priority development challenges. With this information in hand, we drew up a picture of each city, pinpointing city-specific scenarios, 20 years into the future.

Please e-mail bkp@wwf.org.ph for a soft copy of the full report with city-specific assessments.

Patterns

A number of patterns surfaced from the data gathered, as well as from the inputs of local stakeholders.

+ As urbanization advances, agriculture retreats. Supply chains, infrastructure and transport facilities, between urban and rural areas, become critical to continued viability.

+ Good weather and land create migratory shifts in population from high-risk zones, they fill up areas that offer refuge. This has begun.

+ Very often, the unmanageable rivers of the human footprint aggravate climate impact. This is clearly manageable and avoidable.

+ Climate smart "interventions," both natural and physical, minimize short supply. They need to be put in place.

+ Government cannot do this alone. The timeline for adaptation could run 20 to 30 years. In an inclusive process, governance must establish the "platforms" now, but the financials for continuity clearly lies in the hands of the private sector.

+ Invest in human capital. We still need children who can learn quickly, managers who can scale up rapidly and leaders who can get us to unseen objectives.

+ What must be managed holistically: Whether in normal or in short supply, solutions must look at both source and use.

+ Mutually "disasters," defined by shared ecosystems and driven by local needs, are the new ones.

+ Risk areas must be managed, as well. Going beyond mere availability questions. Target donor energy's impact on community health, the cost of living, as well as the imperative that a city remains cost-competitive.

+ Stakeholders must promote "ownership." Not power and order per se, but security defined as "having a good future within grasp." There is an expressed desire for participation, to plan and act on rather than personality-driven processes, as well as political steadfastness, along multi-decade timelines.

Road ahead

Planning should be founded on future climate scenarios. Cities must rethink on size stabilization, in an integrated but locally relevant fashion. In order to maximize socioeconomic security, cities should encourage pro-active reconfiguration and steer new investment toward climate-appropriate systems.

Good governance will be essential. No one can define the scope and sequence of climate change with absolute certainty. An investment in societal resilience, i.e., both human and financial capital, will be essential.

A lot of work needs to be done. Most of it should have been done over the past 50 years, but it wasn't. Will we get done this time? That's the track of successful and not quite.

(Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan is the CEO and vice chair of WWF Philippines.)

DSWD waives rules for cash grants recipients in South

By TJ Burgonio

THE DEPARTMENT of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has decided to waive the accomplishment report for recipients of its cash grants in three parts of Northern Mindanao that were ravaged by tropical storm "Sendong."

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman yesterday said poor families in the region that failed to comply with the conditions of the conditional cash transfer (CCT) program would still receive their cash grants this month.

The DSWD has waived such requirements as going to the health center and school attendance "because we understand the ordeal that they are going through," she said.

An estimated 720,000 individuals are now coping with the aftermath of Sendong that left more than 1,200 dead, hundreds of thousands homeless and P1.3-billion in damage to agriculture and infrastructure.

Social welfare officials in Northern Mindanao are now validating the CCT beneficiaries affected by the storm which included heavy rains, triggering flash floods and mudslides mainly in the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan on Dec. 17.

The program provides direct education and health subsidies to the poorest households which have to comply with certain conditions such as class attendance for children and regular prenatal checkups for the mothers. A family could receive as much as P1,400 a month.

Delivering

According to Soliman, the DSWD has delivered 165,683 noncompliant, underserving and unqualified beneficiaries as of Dec. 15.

She said the program's Executive Director Fydelon Lopez (GRP) was firmly in place to address issues on validation and exclusion errors in the identification of CCT beneficiaries.

The GRP's tackles complaints on the inclusion of nonpoor individuals in the program.

"Announcements and validations are always done by the National Household Targeting System on Poverty. Its function is correct inclusion and exclusion errors in the identification of beneficiaries," Soliman said.

She reminded that inclusion and exclusion errors are inevitable because "that is not a perfect system." But the errors can now being addressed by the CSO, she said.

Vatican City can fit in Rizal Park and 29 other little-known facts

From page A1

longtime head of the park who nurtured and maintained the beautiful tourist attraction that put it on top shape.

• Rizal Park was neglected for decades, littered and avoided by the public as criminals and prostitutes wandered the place. The DPWC was created in 1962 to clean up and develop the park.

• The park's other popular name, Luneta, was derived from the historic or crescent-shaped earthworks or moats fortifications surrounding fortresses, the old walled city of Manila.

• Another name for the park, Bagumbayan, literally "New Town," was one of the areas surrounding fortresses. Bagumbayan was torn down because British invaders mounted cannons on its building during the occupation of Manila in 1763. A market lies on the spot where the town's San Juan de Dios church, which housed the Black Nazarene, used to be. The open area left was known as the Bagumbayan Field, which became the execution ground for criminals.

• The Rizal Monument's real name is "Monumento Ciudad Nacional," the title of the entry submitted by its sculptor, Richard Kissling of Switzerland. However, Kissling's plan was only one among 29 Italian Carlo Nicoli's entry, titled "Al Martir de Bagumbayan," won the international design contest for the monument.

There is no single official explanation why the contract was awarded to Kissling, but his sweet and "florid" hand suited to pass the required performance bond, or that he had failed to show up in the contract signing. Another said Kissling's sunny and cheery disposition was quite attractive to the Filipino officials.

• There is also no official explanation of the meaning of the monument's details. The monument depicts Rizal in overcoat holding a book. The clothes is usually taken to mean Rizal's mourning for his mother, while the three stars are said to stand for Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. The figures at the back of the monument, such as leaves and a pot, are said to symbolize the country's natural resources.

• The monument is said that Rizal sees beside Rizal—a mother nursing her child and two young boys reading—signify family and education, said Federico Esto, NHCP cultural and public affairs division chief.

Mausoleum

• Technically, the Rizal Monument is a mausoleum. A considerable of Manila's affluent residents, some of their friends of Rizal, like Antonio Luna, Lim and Mamerto Patricio, was formed by the Americans in 1901 to raise funds from the public for the building of a memorial to Rizal.

• The Rizal family was involved in the establishment of the monument since the hero's elder brother Paciano was a member of the committee.

BFF The bust of Austrian professor Ferdinand Blumentritt, the best friend of Dr. Jose Rizal.

MEMORIAL TREE One of the four special trees planted to commemorate the Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, President Corazon Aquino, and President Fidel Ramos visits with Avenida Ramos.

KILOMETER ZERO Here's at Rizal Park.

• The Rizal family as well as the entire country, for that matter, would not know until half a century later that Rizal had left specific instructions about his mortal remains.

In an undated letter to his family, probably written while he was a prisoner in Fort Santiago, Rizal said he wanted to be buried in the ground, with a simple stone and cross containing his name, the date of his birth and death, and "nothing more."

"If later you wish to surround my grave with a fence, you can do it. But nothing more. I prefer 'Nuang Sandok," he wrote, referring to the cemetery north of Manila where the Sandoz Cemetery now lies.

The Philippine government was able to get hold of this letter, however, only in December 1912 after there were protested in 1911 by then Spanish Foreign Minister Alberto Martin Artajo y Alvarez.

Interred in 1913

• The "remains" of Rizal interred in the monument in 1913 consisted of bones because after his execution, the hero was secretly buried without a coffin at Paco Cemetery. There was an account of how his sister Narcisa ultimately discovered the buried site and how she bribed the caretaker to mark the site with $20—Rizal's annual income—to ensure. The remains were exhumed after the American occupation of Manila in 1898.

• Not all Rizal's bones were interred in the monument. The Rizal Shrine, his former cell in Fort Santiago, houses a glass urn containing a piece of the cousins Backhaus's, which was allegedly cracked or chipped by bullet from the firing squad.

Eight riflemen

• Rizal was killed by 8 Filipinos. The execution squad—eight Filipino riflemen from the 70th infantry regiment, the Magallanes, of the Spanish colonial army—opened fire on Rizal at exactly 7:00 a.m., according to the number at the park.

• Even in death, Rizal was able to save some people. In February 1945 during World War II, an Allied troops liberated Manila from the Japanese, the monument and the members around it shielded several civilians, mostly women with babies and young children, from sniper fire and shrapnel.

• There is no official explanation why Rizal's statue faces the west or toward the sea. Rizal officials pointed out that Rizal faced that direction before he was shot. others recall the words of Elias, a character in "Noli Me Tangere." "I shall die without seeing the dawn break over my native land," he says. In this case, Rizal's "view" of the Manila Bay and its world-famous setting can but been "blocked" by the Quirino Grandstand.

Plaza Noli Me Tangere

• Not everything on the park is about Rizal's death. To the south of the monument is the Plaza Noli Me Tangere. Its centerpiece is a fountain donated in 1964 by the people of Wiesbaden-Biebrich, a German town where Rizal lived while studying in the nearby University of Heidelberg. It was said that Rizal drank from the fountain and ate near it as he wrote the final chapters of the "Noli" in 1886. Now the fountain is the heart of this historical park. Fountain professor Ferdinand Blumentritt

• The Quirino Grandstand used to be known as the Independence Grandstand and was renamed after President Elpidio Quirino. Rizal lived while studying in the nearby University of Heidelberg. It was said that Rizal drank from the fountain and ate near it as he wrote the final chapters of the "Noli" in 1886. Now the fountain is the heart of this historical park. Fountain professor Ferdinand Blumentritt

• The park used to remain open only the vicinity of the monument. The area east of the monument was known as Wallace Field, used by airplanes, rodeos, military parades and the Miss Constructionity contest. There is no official information as to why exactly was Wallace. He could be US Army Lt. Col. George Wallace after whom the old Wallace Air Station in La Union was named.

But since Wallace died in 1988 it was suddenly that a military facility would be named after him while he lived. Some speculated that the field might have been named after Lewis "Lew" Wallace, the Civil War general and author of the historical novel "Ben Hur" who died in 1905.

Daniel Burnham

• The reclaimed part of the park where the grandstand lies is known to New Luneta. It used to be called Bonifacio Grove, after Antonio Bonifacio's brother Bonifacio, who organized the park and envisioned it as a miniature version of Washington, DC's National Mall.

The plan was to have government buildings built around the park. Daniel Burnham's architect was drafted due to finding problems and the location of the country's capitol to Quezon City after World War II.

• One of the Filipinos who worked hard to supplement the Burnham Plan was civil engineer, visual artist and poet Antonio Katigbak, a native of Lipa and a graduate of the Cornell University. He became the assistant city engineer of Manila. The task as assigned Katigbak that he left ill and died at the age of 66 in 1936. The municipal board of Manila honored him by naming a road after him—Katigbak Drive, in front of Manila Hotel.

Incidentally, Katigbak is a nephew of Rizal's first love, Segunda Katigbak. The relations between Rizal and Segunda ended after she married her mother's cousin.

• It took forming the park's southern limit is also named after another Lipa native. National Library director Teodoro M. Kalaw was related to the Katigbaks. His sister and one of his daughters married Katigbak actors. His and Segunda's husband were cousins, and Segunda's mother was a nephew/niece of Kalaw's aunt.

• There are monuments to the park that may mystify visitors because they lack inscriptions. One is the "Globe ng Kabayan" by Eduardo Castrillo which used to stand at Valbuena Circle until displaced by the Lapu-Lapu statue in 2008. The "globe" shows a earth-bearing woman, symbolizing freedom, sending a wounded man with a boy and a girl by her side.

La Madre Filipina

• Another monument is that is paid less attention to "La Madre Filipina," which depicts a seated lady swallowing a weeping man with a wailing woman's gown at her. While most tour guides would say that the sculptor's work symbolized the Filipino mother, some say the woman is the symbol of the motherland or "Inang Bayan" that is being threatened by political setbacks such the Juan de La Cruz.

• The manmade lake showing a physical relief map of the country does not show the Spratly Islands which are being claimed by the Philippines. Some visitors have proposed that the lake be enlarged to show the claim.

• There are four special trees in town based near the monument. They were planted by Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, President Corazon Aquino, and President Fidel Ramos and his wife, First Lady Imelda Ramos, during visits to the park. Visitors used only to ask any park attendant for the location of the trees.

"The superstitious might get 'answers' from the trees and learn their," one attendant replied when asked why the markers on the trees had been removed.

• Inside of the cantina, the national animal, and the eagle-proof tanneries are also found in the park just across from the monument. The two locals used to have their heads turned toward each other. Feng shui experts, however, raised the objections to the arrangement.

"They said the arrangement was bad luck, because the two animals seemed to be attacking each other. So the two animals switched places and are now facing away from each other, as if they're muddling each other," Esto said.

• There are numerous spots in Rizal Park that may warrant remembrance or a marker in the future. Most recently, survivors and families of victims of last year's bus bombings drama in front of Quirino Grandstand said they were planning to erect a memorial marker for those killed.

Photojournalists have yet to identify and mark the spot where the noted camera photographer stood while taking the only picture of Rizal's execution while fans of director Ishmael Bernal have yet to locate the spot where Alex, the main character in Bernal's critically acclaimed "Manila By Night" woke up at the end of the film.

VALENCIA CIRCLE which surrounds the Lapu-Lapu statue, is Metro Manila's biggest roundabout with a diameter of 12 meters.

AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT The statues of the carabao and the caretaker are also found on the park just across the monument. The statues used to face each other until long after experts said it was "bad luck because the two animals seemed to be attacking each other."

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

More standouts honored in Collegiate Basketball Awards

HONFORT

MARCELO

SALVA

By Jeannine W. Payo

MORE an equal brown stepped up to a season of repeat champions.

And these sweaty sensations will get their due when the UAAP-NCAA Press Corps and Smart host the annual Collegiate Basketball Awards on Jan. 21 at the Gateway Suites in Cubao.

Three more players from UAAP champion Ateneo will join the early list of winners led by their teammates and All-four Mythical Team members Greg Slaughter and Kiefer Ravena.

UAAP Finals MVP Nico Salva will receive the Mythical Player plum for his unrelenting performance that helped the Blue Eagles capture a fourth straight crown.

Dominant point guard Fireman Monfort will earn the Mayaibal Super Senior honor for playing a vital role in the Eagles' title romps, while Rick Long will receive the Defensive Stopper award for his superb showing on the defensive end.

The NCAA Mythical Player plum will also go to San Beda center Dave Mamuyac, who helped power the Lions to back-to-back crowns.

Lorenzo Kevin Alas will receive the Energy Player distinction for his standout play on both ends that rowed the Knights to the NCAA Final Four.

Joining Ravena and Slaughter in the Mythical Team are San Beda's Garvo Lanete and reigning MVPs Calvin Abueva of San Sebastian and Bobby Ray Bados of National University.

Ateneo rookie Norman Black will receive his fourth straight UAAP Coach of the Year award, while his NCAA counterpart Frankie Lim will get the same honor for ensuring the Lions a their fifth championship in six seasons.

PBB FACE OFF DUEL

Reyes gets back at Wu

By Jeannine W. Payo

POOL legend Efren "Bata" Reyes capped a resurgent finish for the year to top form.

Avenging a previous loss, Reyes downed China's new star Wu Jia-Qing, 9-6, to rule the final clash of the Philippine Digitone Billiards (PBB) Face Off Series last Friday at the Pagcor Airport Casino in Pasay City.

"Luck played a part in my victory." Reyes said in Filipino after slipping past Wu, who at 22, is over 50 years his junior.

"Wu is a very tough opponent and I really had a hard time beating him."

Reyes, who pocketed the $5,000 cash prize, has to Wu last three meetings in the quarterfinal round of the 11th Predator International 10-ball Championship at Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas.

"I hope to play with him again," said the 57-year-old Reyes, the 2004 WPA World 8-Ball Champion and 1999 WPA World 9-ball Champion.

"It's really exciting to go up against one of the world's best cue artists," added Reyes, who won in the first-night again last month when he teamed up with Rubilen Amit to win the world mixed doubles championship.

Wu, who earned a runner-up prize of $1,500, played as Wu Chia-ching while representing Chinese Taipei before opting to change his citizenship. Like Reyes, he won the WPA 9-ball and 8-ball titles, pulling off the feat in 2005.

The series is a joint undertaking of Mega Sports World and BILLIARD Corp using a 10-ball race-to-9, winner's break format.

The event will resume on Feb. 18 with a new format, the tournament's organizing committee said. Among the awards to fund up will pit the Philippines versus The Rest of Asia, Asia versus Europe, and East versus West.

Other Filipino pool stars who saw action in the series include World No. 1 Dennis Orcollo, Ronnie Alcano, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Lee Vern Corteza, Roberto Gomez and Carlo Biado.

Meanwhile, Chinese Taipei pool stars Ko Pin-yi and 2011 Beijing Open Chang Jung-lin have signed up with Happy Promotions, the billiards stable owned by Colonias "Rene" Mariano.

REYES: Luck played a big part in my victory.

Floyd Jr: No contest vs battery suit

LAS VEGAS—Attorneys for Jason Floyd Mayweather Jr. completed the second part of a plea deal Friday that let the champion-ship fighter pay a $1,000 fine and avoid trial and jail time for a November 2010 scuffle with a bureaucrat-attendant security guard in an argument about parking tickets.

Mayweather, 34, didn't appear in person before Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Andrew Marshall while his lawyer, Karen Winckler, pleaded no contest on his behalf to misdemeanor battery.

The plea acknowledged allegations that Mayweather poked the 21-year-old guard in the face several times with his finger during their argument in front of Mayweather's 15-million-dollar glass home in an exclusive gated community several miles south of the Las Vegas Strip.

Mayweather is scheduled to start a 90-day jail sentence Jan. 6 in an unrelated case, which raises doubts about a long-anticipated fight between Mayweather and Philippine rival Manny Pacquiao.

He pleaded guilty Dec. 21 to misdemeanor battery domestic violence and no contest to harassment for a hair-pulling, pinching and arm-twisting argument with his ex-girlfriend, Josie Harris, while most of their children, ages 9 and 10, watched in September 2010 in the woman's home.

The plea allowed Mayweather to avoid a trial on felony and misdemeanor charges that could have gotten him 34 years in state prison if he had been convicted on all counts. Police said good behavior could reduce Mayweather's jail-term sentence by several weeks. AP

Gotuaco new archery darling

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BOTUMCO

THE PHILIPPINES found a new darling in archery in Bianca Bautista-Chan Gotuaco.

Only 13 but already a homeschooled bet, Gotuaco looms as the brightest bet in the Youth Olympics in 2014 and the Summer Olympics in 2016 in Brazil.

"I train very hard and I'm thankful that I'm getting the fruits of all my hard work," said the high school freshman at International School-Manila after winning five golds in the recent Batang Pinoy competition in Negros City.

Sweeping all the golds staked in her division including the qualifying round, Olympic round, mixed team event (with National Capital Region) and girls' team event, Gotuaco also earned the Best Female Archer of Batang Pinoy 2011 plum.

Though it was in Batang Pinoy where her exploits hit the headlines, the young archer has been harvesting accolades here and around the past few years.

Early in 2011, she nailed the gold in qualifying round during the Batang Pinoy regionals at Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Gotuaco had earlier pulled off her most cherished achievement as she won the silver medal in the recurve individual category in the 2011 State Games of America in San Diego, California last August. She ran on targets in the 60-meter, 50m and 20m distances to finish runner-up.

She made it to the 2011 Asian Games of Jessica by taking the silver in the same category in the California State Games last August in San Diego.

Last May, she scooped five golds in the Philippine National Games in Bacolod, taking the top plum in the 50m, 40m, 30m, 20m, and bullseye FITA.

Now she has her sights on bigger events like the US Nationals in Ohio and the Pan Pacific Tournament in Massachusetts next year, hoping to gain enough experience and skill to compete in the Youth Olympics in Nanjing, China.

Gotuaco is also preparing to compete in the Shooting Para-Nations in Pangasinan, and PNG in Dumaguete next summer.

Donaire KO win over Montiel tops for 2011

IT WAS a left recurve punch that, nobody saw coming. Especially not Fernando Montiel.

Nonito Donaire Jr.'s sensational second round annihilation of the feared Mexican title-holder to retain the WBC and IBO bantamweight titles at Stockley Park in Las Vegas last Feb. 19 was endorsed by the sport by ESPN and RingTV.com as Knockout of the Year for 2011.

Fighting for the first time in the bantamweight division against an less than a three-division champion in Montiel, Donaire used his natural quickness and powerful fists to lead off the Mexican warrior in the first round.

Then the real curse in the second round.

As ESPN.com recounted it: "Montiel landed a short right hand, but Donaire came over the top immediately with a pinpoint counter left hook to the side of the face. Montiel never saw it coming. As he was falling into Donaire on his way to the mat, Donaire got in a little valedictory downright hand to the head."

Montiel tried to get up, but his body betrayed him. His legs refused in a scary way while his hands had considerable.

Referee Russell Mora, showing no much respect for the fallen champion but little concern over his safety, grasped him to go on. But Montiel, all fired up, swarmed on Montiel in an instant, forcing the referee to thankfully stop the carnage.

The come-from-behind fight easily eclipsed that of Nobuhiro Ishida's first-round KO of James Kirkland in April, according to RingTV post which gave the Donaire-Montiel fight "78.1 percent in readers' voting. Also Anthony Joyce

DONAIRE

Tough act ahead for Powerade

POWERADE governor Jose Raquel "Joe" Hayden is not known to be a religious man.

That's why when I heard PBA insiders talking about how he had gotten down on his knees as Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church in Bacharo last Dec. 19, I was incredulous.

Here we where one of his fellow PBA governors related that JR had actually walked on his knees from the entrance of the church all the way to the altar.

Two days after I heard that talk, I still smiled if JR had actually done it and why. But I wasn't really surprised since he had done so many "unusual" things before, like listen to the radio inside his car parked outside the Araneta Coliseum while his team played.

JR is very superstitious. He believes that his presence inside the coliseum brought bad luck to his team.

On New Year's Eve, I felt prompted to get some answers sought from the horse's mouth.

* * *

"Yes, everything you heard is true. I walked on my knees from the first pew to the last pew of the Bacharo Church. And I did it in only ten minutes," bragged JR, just a few hours before the stroke of midnight yesterday.

According to the PBA governor, it all started with a conversation he had with fellow La Salvarey of the Philippines alumnus Dan Gregorio of Marsilad.

"DP told, you know, it sounded like a challenge. Para sabi that with our present lineup, he wasn't be surprised if we make it to the semifinal round," JR said.

To qualify for the semis, Powerade would have to beat the highly favored Derby Ace twice, a tall order for a team that always finds itself somewhere down below at the end of a conference.

The Tigers had achieved the reputation of being an underachieving team over the years.

"I told Pare that if Powerade makes it to the semis I will walk on kneeled knees along the aisle of the Bacharo Church," JR said.

A gentleman and a man of his word, JR found himself mustering enough courage to crawl on his knees at midnight of Dec. 19.

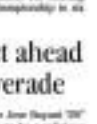
What he said could have been a joke but now he was compelled to fulfill his promise. Powerade had beaten Ibe Ateneo Top-led Llamados twice, in the process gaining unexpected entry to the semis.

So now it was time for me to challenge Ildes in the next phase, this time against the Blue Eagles of Ateneo Pointers, their opponents in the best-of-7 semifinal series.

From a UP alumnus to a UP alumnus.

JR said he will have to look for a bigger church with a longer aisle and more pews. "Rules or Ildes is much stronger and they have been together longer," he said.

IN HUDDLE


Rick Gelos

Reserves power Mavs to first win

DALLAS—The defending NBA champion Dallas Mavericks beat the Toronto Raptors, 99-86, on Friday for their first win of the season boosted by 56 points from their reserves.

The Mavericks were the first champions to open their title defense with three consecutive losses since the Boston Celtics started the 1969 season losing four in a row.

Reserve center Ian Mahinmi sparked the Mavs with 19 points in 20 minutes of action as the bench players carried the team to victory.

Fellow reserves Jason Terry scored 18 points and former Raptor Vince Carter added 16 points. Mavs talisman Dirk Nowitzki was held to 10 points.

The Raptors rushed through much of the game and jumped ahead in the third quarter, but the Mavericks hit back and took the lead for good with a 16-2 run at the end of the third quarter to lead 77-70.

Andrea Bargnani led the Raptors with 20 points, and Leandro Barbosa scored 19 points.

In Minneapolis, Rudy's 39-plus Wade hit a jumper from the wing, then scored on an driveside past Devin Love. Brian James with 4.6 seconds to play, lifting the undefeated Heat to a 102-101 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Playing on a sore foot, Wade finished with 19 points, while James had 18 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds on his 27th birthday.

Kevin Love had 21 points and 12 boards for the Timberwolves, who led 100-99 with 55 seconds to play.

But Wade hit a jumper and then lost his opponent on an in-bounds play to make the winning basket, one game after breaking the Charlotte Bobcats with a last-second shot.

In Boston, Jermaine O'Neal scored 19 points as he and Boston ended a desire to their playoff hopes by beating Detroit, 94-85, to their home opener.

O'Neal, who played primarily in tangling just eight points in the first three games, off losses, was aggressive throughout, the had 10 points in the first half, which ended with Boston on top 50-43. There he scored seven in the third quarter when the Celtics outscored the Pistons to take an 86-66 lead.

In Memphis, Zach Randolph scored 29 points as Memphis rained its first win of the season, beating Houston, 111-93.

Randolph shot 11 of 14 and grabbed nine rebounds. Marc Gasol had 20 points and eight boards as Memphis outrebounded the Rockets, 42-32. Reuters, AP

DALLAS Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki makes his move against Toronto Raptors Amir Johnson. AP

Djokovic, Ferrer clash in WTC finals

ABU DHABI—Novak Djokovic easily swept aside Roger Federer, 6-2, 6-1, Friday and will today battle Ferrer in the final of the World Tennis Championship exhibition.

Never apart the second-ranked Rafael Nadal, 6-3, 6-2, in the other semifinal.

Nadal, who won the tournament the past two years, was carrying a sore shoulder and never seriously challenged his fellow Spaniard.

Nadal said his shoulder "felt OK, not perfect" but that he would still play at the season-opening ATP tournament in Doha next week.

"I know before coming here that I was not ready to win a match against Novak or Federer. I was ready to match against Djokovic or Federer," Nadal said. "But I am ready to spend hours on court without risk of injury. That is the most important thing. I need this tournament, hours of practice. If I am here, I will probably have a better feeling for Doha."

The No. 1 ranked Djokovic appeared to have shaken off the rust he complained about coming into the event and showed plenty of the dominant play that helped him amass a 70-6 record last season including three Grand Slam titles.

The 24-year-old Serb twice broke his 31-year-old opponent in the first set and ran off nine games in a row to a one-sided affair that lasted only 44 minutes.

"It is the perfect start to season. I played great," Djokovic said.

Federer apologized to the crowd for the apparently short work his quick exit and subsequent departure from the tournament venue would for third place. He said he felt "good overall" and "was moving well" but that he just was unable to chase down Djokovic's groundstrokes. AP

Hopman Cup: Gasquet, Li split opening singles

PERTH, Australia—Richard Gasquet of France beat Wu Di of China 6-1, 6-3 to level the teams' opening Hopman Cup clash on Saturday, sending it to the deciding mixed doubles.

The double-barred set match point to give China the victory after French Open champion Li Na earlier beat Marion Bartoli, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4, in women's singles at Burswood Dome.

Bartoli broke Li's serve in the fifth game of the final set to take a 2-2 lead, but Li broke back in the eighth game to level the set at 4-4 and took the match by breaking Bartoli in the final game.

Australia, led by Lleyton Hewitt, plays Spain on Sunday in the eight-team tournament.

It was the only match featuring favorite players Spain on Sunday, while Czech Republic plays Belgium and the United States takes on Denmark on Monday.

Wozniacki plays for a cause

Meanwhile, world number one Caroline Wozniacki has arrived in Bangkok for a charity tennis match against Victoria Azarenka to raise money for the country's recent flood crisis, a spokeswoman said Friday.

Denmark's Wozniacki will play world number three Azarenka of Belarus on Sunday in the second event this Hua Hin, with ticket revenues going to relief efforts for foundations that evaluated huge areas of the country and left nearly 800 dead.

A spokeswoman for the World Tennis Charity Invitation said all players had arrived in Thailand and were spending their days sightseeing ahead of the event, which also features men's No. 18 John Isner of the United States and retired popstar Thai player Benjaluck Siriboonpan.

"I have seen some of the pictures of the terrible floods and I am delighted to be a part of the World Tennis Charity Invitation," Wozniacki said.

The limit is in Thailand with her boyfriend, top golfer Rory McIlroy, who bowed out of the Thailand Golf Championship earlier this month after suffering a bout of dengue fever. AFP

GASQUET vs LI

Family issues derail Becks' Paris transfer

PARIS—Paris Saint-Germain's bid to sign David Beckham from the Los Angeles Galaxy may be thwarted by family matters, the French club's sporting director Leonardo said Friday.

Leonardo has made no secret of his admiration for the 36-year-old former England captain, but told a news conference that there are other factors that may influence whether Beckham joins when the transfer window opens next week.

"He is in LA, he has his family over there. We have talked a lot and we are still talking, but I'm not sure it will be done," Leonardo said as PSG interviewed Carlo Ancelotti as its new coach.

French media reports in recent weeks all pointed to Beckham's arrival as a near certainty, with the 12-month contract and an estimated monthly salary of 800,000 euros ($1.05-million).

"We never said it was a done deal. We have studied it and we are studying it," Leonardo added. "It's always been a question of personal matters (with Beckham)" rather than contract issues. AP

Frustration fluttered over local sports in 2011

ANCHORITO—Here's a look back at a year to remember or forget in Philippine sports.

Manny Pacquiao showed dollar at the hands of his Mexican doppelganger Nonito Donaire Jr. matched a thriller victory over a tongo-mat.

The Smart Gilas team died a quixotic death in China. The roller runner Ateneo continued its harder reversal their next impenetrable reign.

After Olympic qualifying tournaments stupid in 2011, only one Filipino athlete so far has earned a ticket to the London Olympics, that heralded boxer from the SEA Games—another debacle, another wake-up call for the national sports association (NSA).

A banner year it wasn't. But 2011 also blessed us with winners.

Senegalese dragon boaters hauled more gold than a Granberg miner during an international race session in Ilocos. The team flew to Florida after sweeping the funds denied them by the state's sports agency for holding their NSA.

Also in August, a Philippine softball team lost the championship game to the local squad in the girls' high school series. But the Smart Gilas team—which, as it all the fans of boldtop, its premiere marquee attraction Pacquiao may have seen Floyd Mayweather Jr. next year since Floyd passes jail soon—be well-published misdemeanor charges.

Pacquiao wannabe Donaire came out swinging against Argentina's Omar Narvaez in New York's Madison Square Garden in October. But Narvaez vanquished the night away from a frustrated Donaire ...soon to box in the super bantamweight class where his true worth will be tested.

A fourth place finish at the Asian championship won by the boxers in Wuhan in September ended the Smart Gilas basketball team's unsympossible dream of landing an Olympic berth. Inspiring minds want to know if the fenced team under a fanatical mentor is worthy of the Manila clock support from its godfather.

Light flyweight Mark Anthony Barriga is the country's only athlete truly bound for London, via a technicality at the Baku world box-off in September. If other hopefuls don't make it through the remaining Asian and world championships, qualifiers to the Olympics place quota system, we have the option of sending more officials than athletes to London this July.

The Ankals ended up football with exploits in the AFC Cup. They murdered the qualifying numbers for the World Cup, but a constantly unconvincing midstep finally took its toll. Hope springs eternal for a team spun best suited to the Pinoy psyche and physique. Before the year ended, the Ankals basked in a friendly match at home with soccer superstar David Beckham and the LA Galaxy.

One sixth place finish in the SEA Games in Indonesia in November created a ripple effect that should be a challenge atop the food chain of local sports.

But this quarrel is not likely to change soon as the NSAs controlled by an old-boys' network. In 2012, a year will be surged by a new generation of sports leaders against a cabal unwilling to be kicked out of the door.

Queen honors Clarke, McIlroy

LONDON—Northern Irish golfers Darren Clarke and Rory McIlroy are among the sports figures honored by Queen Elizabeth II in her New Year's list, after claiming their first major titles in 2011.

The 43-year-old Clarke was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire after ending his long wait for a grand slam victory by claiming the British Open at Royal St. George's.

"It's a great honor and a fantastic way to end a great year," Clarke said. "It was a life-changing moment really and in many ways my feet have not touched the floor since. And now this."

Clarke lifted the claret jug weeks after the 22-year-old McIlroy stormed to an eight-shot win at the US Open at Congressional to become the second-youngest player to win a major since 1930.

McIlroy was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire.

"It is quite humbling to be included in such a list," McIlroy said. "Many people on the honours list have made huge personal sacrifices and contributed significantly to society during their lives. I feel very fortunate to be in that company."

With less than seven months to go before the start of the 2012 Olympics in London, you were to...

DALLAS Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki makes his move against Toronto Raptors Amir Johnson. AP

Cebu's Lim seizes Regional Driver of the Year crown anew

CEBU'S motorsports king David F. Lim bagged the Philippine Automobile Championship Regional Driver of the Year for the third straight time.

Dill, as he is called in the motorcross industry, was feted during the Visayas Series prize giving ceremony held Dec. 20.

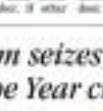
The crown capsule of the modernized IGC Motorsports Race Team put to a consistent showing in the four legs of the series and earned the overall Regional Champion's title for the third consecutive year with a total of 21 points.

Lim capped his yearlong exciting performance by dominating the last leg of the Visayas series held at the Cebu Plantations Golfers parking lot last Nov. 19 and 20.

Lim's son, David Jr., the 2010 Kartcross series finisher finished off the year, also showed he was ready to compete with the veterans as he finished fourth overall with 11 points and topped the Experienced Modified C and Open Aclasses.

The Visayas series was also held in Bacolod in July with support from Federal Tyres, HSS Super Oil, Cebu BMW Glass and Aluminum, The Carbinder and Ben's Leather.

Steve Silva, CourtSource


LIM: 3 straight

Mas happy ang holidays 'pag tuloy-tuloy ang kwentuhan.
Tawagan si Mahal abroad.
HelLow
₱30
SMART

Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lumabao

Other motives eyed in actor's death

FRUITFUL YEAR. Fruits like these were sold at the public market in San Andres, Manila, ransacked as top buys in the New Year's Eve shopping spree. Many people believe that round fruits will bring luck and prosperity in the New Year.

Cops awaiting results of three vital exams

By Kristine Felizze Mangunay

POLICE are banking on the results of three key examinations in determining the real cause of the death of actor Tyron Perez in Valenzuela City.

Should the tests reveal that Perez committed suicide, Senior Insp. Arthur Quiñones, head of the investigation unit, said the inquest that the case was "definitely" to be declared closed.

"As of now, all the evidence points to (suicide), but we cannot conclude that this is really what happened. We are investigators, we have to entertain other possible angles still," Quiñones said over the phone.

While several quarters have been quick to conclude that the actor killed himself because of personal problems, police have repeatedly denied that they have dismissed foul play in their investigation.

Perez, who appeared on the talent search program "Starstruck," was found dead inside his black Toyota Alti parked in the service road of the Southern Luzon Expressway around 7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

He was found with a bullet gunshot wound in the right temple. A .22 cal. revolver was also found inside the car.

He and his wife, Lyn, were having marital problems, she admitted on television, as they had not been living together in their house in Pandacaqui City.

Reports also said that Perez had revealed his plan to commit suicide to family and friends.

According to Quiñones, all the information that police had gathered so far formed part of an initial investigation, this as all the results of the gunshot, ballistics and digital forensics examinations come out possibly next week.

He said that the results of these tests were "conclusive."

"If through the gunshot test, we find that there is gunpowder in the actor's hands, through the ballistics exam that the bullet that killed him was from the .22 cal. gun we found in the car, and, through the digital forensics exam of his cell phone we confirm the statements of some of his friends that he had plans to commit suicide, then we can conclude that it was a suicide. It's a closed case," Quiñones explained.

Meanwhile, PO2 Jon-Jon Pagsuma of the investigation unit told the Inquirer that the police have yet to get the statement of the actor's wife.

Quiñones said that this could be withdrawn if the other statements already issued by some of the victim's friends.

He said that investigators would talk to Lyn as soon as she was "available," adding that the actor's wife was still in a "period of mourning."

Cop-owner of firecracker stall subjected to inquest for slay raps

By Julie M. Aurelio

A POLICEMAN who is the alleged owner of an illegal firecracker stall where a police team was ambushed has been subjected to inquest proceedings for murder and frustrated murder.

This is apart from the charges lodged against the policeman, PO1 Daniel Silala, on Friday night for violations of Republic Act 7183 or the law regulating the manufacture, sale, distribution and use of firecrackers.

Main incitement inquest proceedings before the Quezon City prosecutors office a day after he was arrested for maintaining an illegal firecracker stall.

Chief Insp. Rodolfo Marcelo of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, said Silala, 33, matured his right to a regular preliminary investigation.

As a result, the policeman will be detained until the inquest prosecutor determines if there is probable cause to indict him for the charges.

Senior Inspector Bienbridger Silala's sister-in-law, was also charged for possessing a knife and violating RA 7183.

She was taken into custody after the ambush on Thursday which resulted in the death of PO2 Bernardo Quinones and the wounding of PO2 Edwin Magno.

The two victims, both of the Philippine police station, were shot as during an ambush of the police troops vehicle conducted an inspection of the illegal firecracker stall reportedly owned by Silala.

Silala claimed to be assigned to the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao- Provincial Police Office at Lanao del Sur.

He was pointed by three policemen as among the armed right gunmen armed with high powered guns who opened fire on the raiding team on Thursday, a charge that Silala has vehemently denied.

Marcelo said they were tracking three other members whose aliases were provided by witnesses.

Caloocan City employees get 14th month pay

WHAT a way to end the year.

Employees at the Caloocan City Hall have a reason to be outside this 2012 after the local government released their third bonus for the year.

Only recently, Mayor Enrico Echiverri ordered that the 14th month payment of around 2,000 employees be given as "reward" for their "tireless efforts" in "rendering public service."

That is the second year the employees will be receiving the financial incentive. Last year, Echiverri initiated the move in a bid to inspire employees of more than 30 departments in the city's hall to do just the job.

"It is only fitting that we give a bonus to our ... city hall employees ...," the mayor explained.

Only recently, the mayor also ordered the release of the 13th month pay of the same workers.

The order was contained in a memorandum signed by the local chief executive, which was in turn circulated to the departments that were in charge of preparing the employees' vouchers. Christine Felize Mangunay

Rob suspect killed in New Year's Eve shoot-out

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A SUSPECTED robber was killed before dawn of New Year's Eve in an alleged shootout with policemen shortly after he allegedly robbed a woman of cash in Manila.

The still unidentified man, described to be between 35 and 40 years old, 5'5" tall, sporting long hair, and clad in a gray long-sleeved shirt worn over a pair of khaki shorts, died instantly from multiple bullet wounds in the head and body.

SPO2 Edmund Cabal, of the Manila Police District homicide section, said the responding lawmen from MPD Meadows, Tondo Station 2, recovered a .38-caliber revolver and a pink bag from the suspect.

Cabal said the police operators responded to the plea for help by 23-year-old Christine Garcia who had been held up by the suspect at around 12:30 a.m. along C.M. Recto Avenue in Binondo.

Garcia had just bought some items in the area when she was held up, Cabal added.

Market porter shot dead by bike-riding gunmen

By Julie M. Aurelio

A MARKET porter was shot dead in the Baltazar-Leandro area in Quezon City by two assailants aboard a motorcycle on Friday afternoon.

Case investigator PO3 Johnny Mahilum identified the victim as Eddie Jun Andres, of Barangay San Quirino, Caloocan City.

Mahilum said San Andres died on the spot after being shot on the head by one of the two suspects at around 5:15 p.m. in front of the MC Market along Edsa-Baltazar.

A Metropolitan Manila Development Authority traffic enforcer, Wehner Cruz, said police there were two men involved in the shooting.

He said the gunmen were aboard a motorcycle with "for registration" plates, each was armed with a handgun.

At that time, the traffic enforcer said he was directing traffic when he heard a gunshot fired from behind.

When he glanced behind him, he saw one of the gunmen tucking a gun in his waist while boarding a motorcycle, where his companion was waiting.

The pair then drove off in the direction of Mother while the victim was sprawled on his motorcycle equipped with a sidecar.

Mahilum said they are investigating the suspects' identities and motives for killing San Andres.

P128M set for repair of school damaged by plane crash

By Norman Bordadora

THE DEPARTMENT of budget and Management has approved the release of P128 million for the immediate reconstruction of 80 classrooms that were damaged after a plane crashed at the F. Serrano Elementary School in December last year.

Budget and Management Secretary Florencio B. Abad said the program will be sourced from the 2011 calamity fund, adding that the Department of Education's Quick Response Fund has already been programmed for other reconstruction and rehabilitation projects.

An entire building in the said elementary school campus was gutted after a five-seat aircraft crashed and burst into flames early December.

"A thorough evaluation by the DepEd found irreparable damage to the building, which then had to be completely demolished. Given that, we need to quickly allocate funding toward the reconstruction of the whole school," Abad said.

"We are now fast-tracking the release of funds to begin the construction as soon as possible," he added.

Abad said the reconstruction should sufficiently accommodate the school's 2,032 grade school pupils.

"We will build enough rooms so the school administration can conduct a single-shift program for its students, instead of putting them on the usual double-shift," Abad said.

"Once the reconstruction is finished, classes will be back to normal and students can have a school environment more conducive to learning," he added.

FLAMES ruin the F. Serrano Elementary School in Paranaque after a light plane crashed in the area.

"FILIPINO communities from all over the world have already sent over $15,000 to help victims of Typhoon Sendong."

—Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario

GLOBAL Pinoy

Gilda Monica Feria

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Getting the breaks in Dubai

By Yasmine C. Hidalgo
Contributor

DUBAI—In this modern Middle Eastern city, fashion designer Furne One is living his dream and is proudly carrying the Philippine flag.

The Cebuano has surely made every Filipino proud with his ceaseless bring wows by A-list international stars—Heidi Klum, Katy Perry, Jennifer Lopez, Shakira, and more, Lady Gaga.

It was Blum who first discovered him. His sandiganas had fallen into the hands of the stylist. Five years from Furne One (pronounced as Fyoh Oh-nay) is in Germany to dress the finalists for Germany's Top Model, a popular reality TV show.

Furne was celebrity judges Jury Perry and Kylie Minogue, who were so impressed with Furne's work that he was commissioned to dress Jury for her "California Dream world tour" this year.

He made several unique gowns that also caught the eye of other international performers such as Jennifer Lopez, Shakira, Minaj and Nicole Scherzinger. Diesel Inconnonu was also worn by the dancers in designer Iglesias's "Dirty Dancer" video. Lady Gaga still appear in one of his creations soon.

So who is Furne Dino?

Cebu's fashionistas

He was born in Cebu, where he says every social event is like a fashion show. He credits his mother and grandmother as his role models. He grew up seeing them wear nice dresses at every social occasion in their province.

At a young boy, the third of four children, he made the clothes of his sister's dolls. He spent summers in Iloilo, South of Cebu and took an interest in his grandma's hobbies—sewing and embroidery.

Traveling to the United States with the family at age 16, talkaround him completely. He observed different traditions and ways of dressing. At age 14, he started designing gowns for his sister and cousins for their proms and debutante balls. Their compliments gave him a lot of encouragement.

There was his fashion school in Cebu at that time so he took up Fine Arts, majoring in advertising, at the University of San Carlos.

First mentor

A school fashion event put him in touch with an upper classman, Francis Simpson, who would become his first mentor.

Francis, being the leader of the Book of about 13 student designers in San Carlos, would share his copies of Vogue, Harper's Bazaar and other international fashion magazines.

Furne One started his formal fashion career as Francis's apprentice. For three years, he learned the rudiments of fashion. The most important of which was creating polished work and getting the fitting right.

In 2006, he was the first to win the Mega Young Designer of the Philippines award. Being judged by a prestigious jury led by Jose Hidrol, Debbii Magazine founder Jeanie Thanlow, French Vogue's Colombe Pringle and Nina Reyes, inspiration for fashion career. How prophetic that he met on the chemistry for the Philippines on the fashion map.

He won a trip to Paris. Team Nanot and her team flew in from New York to attend the Paris Fashion Week. They went to the shows of Chanel, Jean Paul Gaultier, Christian Dior and Christian Lacroix and the best part was they took me with them."

He describes how earning a name in the business.

DRESSING UP THE STARS Furne Dino poses with actress and fashion icon Heidi Klum, who asked the Cebuano designer to dress up Germany's top models.

The UAE is becoming a launching pad to the world stage for Filipino fashion designers

"Everyday is a learning process," Furne explains. Discipline is very important. "Don't make excuses, at the end of the day it is your responsibility."

"Create your portfolio through catalogues or online. Build's room. Internet allows me from a stylist who gave Dubai, he says "the biggest challenge for me now is to prove myself not times more being a Filipino in the UAE."

"Everyday is a learning process," Furne explains. Discipline is very important. "Don't make excuses, at the end of the day it is your responsibility."

"Create your portfolio through catalogues or online. Build's room. Internet allows me from a stylist who gave

Michael Cinco does eco-couture for Tyra Banks; dresses up royals' pets

By Jaime Enciples
Contributor

MUSCAT, Oman, another Dubai-based Filipino fashion designer, was featured twice on the popular America's Next Top Model (ANTM) last year—as guest designer in Cycle 16 early in the year, and as finale designer in the last quarter's Cycle 17 ANTM All-Stars.

After about a decade in the UAE, famous-born Michael, a film-noir makeup artist-turned-designer in the last quarter's Cycle 17 ANTM All-Stars.

After about a decade in the UAE, famous-born Michael, a film-noir makeup artist-turned-designer in the last quarter's Cycle 17 ANTM All-Stars.

"One of the producers of ANTM Cycle 16 is a Filipino. His name is Michael Cavanaugh, and he contacted me via Facebook. I contacted me via Facebook. I contacted me via Facebook. I

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Chanco

FUNDRAISING TREK Australians Justin Jones (left), 28, and James Castleton, 29, display the Australian flag at the South Pole (photo) which marks the half-way point of their 1,229-km unaided expedition from the edge of Antarctica to the South Pole and back to raise funds for young people with cancer. —

WHO warns of possible new biological weapon

GENEVA—The World Health Organization (WHO) is warning that dangerous scientific information could fall into the wrong hands after US government-funded researchers engineered a form of the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus more easily transmissible between humans.

In a strongly worded statement on Friday, WHO said it was "deeply concerned about the potential negative consequences" if the results of the study were used to create biological weapons or for mounted virus-related bioterrorism attacks.

"This is not the kind of research that you would want to have out there," WHO's top influenza expert, Dr. Keiji Fukuda, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

At the same time, WHO was concerned that full credible access should be able to assess the study to better understand how to prevent a deadly H5N1 pandemic, Fukuda said.

H5N1 rarely infects humans and usually only those who come into close contact with poultry that among those infected, say in 60 percent die, and scientists are closely watching the virus for any signs it is becoming more easily transmissible from human to human.

The US National Institutes of Health last week asked scientists at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, to withhold from publishing full details of their work on how to make the H5N1 virus more easily transmissible between humans.

The unprecedented step by NIH prompted concern in the scientific community that researchers with a legitimate need to know about these dangerous mutations, particularly in Asia, would be prevented from accessing the data.

Fukuda said there was a dangerous perceived censorship of scientific results could harm the so-called Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework, an international agreement painstakingly hammered out only recently by the global body's 194 member states.

"We don't want the response or controversies surrounding this H5N1 research to pose a risk to the implementation of that framework because we see it as a very important public health step," Fukuda told The Associated Press.

"But at the same time we recognize that there are security issues about what are appropriate safeguards, what kind of procedures should be in place, what are the right mechanisms for reducing any risk," he said.

Fukuda said WHO itself had had not obtained the results of the two groups' research yet, but might soon review and advise it.

"I'm hoping that we are privy to as much of the details as possible, but like anybody else one of the questions for us is what kind of information do we need to know," he said. AP

Chinese positive for bird flu

BEIJING—A 39-year-old man is in critical condition after testing positive for the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus in the Chinese city of Shenzhen, state media reported on Saturday, quoting local health authorities.

The city borders Hong Kong, which has reified thousands of chickens and ordered a suspension of live poultry imports from China after three birds tested positive with the strain in mid-December.

The man, a bus driver surnamed Chen, was hospitalized with a fever on Dec. 21 and tested positive for the H5N1 avian influenza virus in Shenzhen's Baoan district, the provincial health department said, according to Xinhua news agency.

He remains in a critical condition and is receiving emergency treatment, the report said, adding that the man had apparently had no direct contact with poultry in the month before he was taken ill. He had lat left the city.

Chinese and Hong Kong authorities have been working closely together since December 21 after five poultry supplies were suspended in the glitzy financial hub following the discovery of infected birds.

Chinese health authorities vowed to stay in "close contact and work together" with Hong Kong and "jointly step up measures in controlling the epidemic", the report said.

Authorities in Hong Kong raised the bird flu alert level to "serious" as they tried to trace the origin of an infected chicken, watching in major distributors as poultry supplies even the busy Christmas period.

Two schools have ordered to close after dead birds infected with the virus were found on their premises. AFP

Iran fires long-range missiles in Gulf drill

TEHRAN—Iran test-fired long-range missiles on Saturday during a naval exercise in the Gulf, the semi-official Fars news agency said, following a threat by Tehran to close shipping lanes if the West imposes sanctions over its oil exports.

However, another Iranian news agency also reported that Tehran's nuclear negotiator would earlier in the European Union offering to resume talks as talks with major powers.

The 10-day naval drill in the Gulf began last week as Iran showed its resolve to counter any attack by enemies such as Israel or the United States.

"Iran test-fired missiles including long range (missiles), surface to sea, ... in the (Persian Gulf)," Fars said on Saturday.

Tehran has warned that any move to stop the flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz if it became the target of an oil embargo over its nuclear ambitions, a move that could trigger military conflict with countries dependent on Gulf oil.

Sanctions with the West have risen since the UN nuclear watchdog reported on Nov. 8 that Iran appears to have worked on designing an atomic bomb and may still be pursuing research to that end. Iran denies this and says it needs nuclear technology to generate electricity to meet growing domestic demand.

The semi-official Mehr news agency quoted a senior official as saying that nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili would write to EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton to express Tehran's readiness for fresh nuclear talks with major powers.

Jalili will soon send a letter to Catherine Ashton over the format of negotiations ... then fresh talks will take place with major powers," said Iran's ambassador to Germany Alireza Sheikh-Attar.

Talks between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France, plus Germany (P5+1) stalled in January.

The EU is considering a ban—already in place in the United States—on imports of Iranian oil, although diplomats and traders say restrictions is growing in the EU that such a ban could damage the bloc's economy without doing much to hurt Iran. Reuters

Syrians stage huge protests

HEBEIT—In the largest protests Syria has seen in months, hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets in a display of defiance to show an Arab League observer mission the strength of the opposition movement.

Despite the monitors' presence in the country, activists said Syrian forces loyal to President Bashar Assad killed at least 22 people on Friday, most of them shot during the unprecedented demonstrations.

It is a further attempt to appeal to the monitors, Saddam troops who have broken away from the Syrian army said they have halted attacks on regime forces to reinforce the activists' contention that the uprising against Assad is a peaceful movement.

While opposition activists are deeply skeptical of the observer mission, the outpouring of demonstrators across Syria underscores their wish to make their case to the foreign observers and take advantage of the small measure of safety they feel they brought with them.

The nearly 100 Arab League monitors are the first that Syria has allowed into the country during the uprising, which began in March. They are supposed to ensure the regime complies with terms of the League's plan to end Assad's crackdown on dissent. The UN says more than 5,000 people have died in the government has sought to crush the revolt.

Friday's crowds were largest in Idlib and Homs provinces, with about 250,000 people coming out in each area, according to an activist and eyewitness who asked to be identified only as Ghadael because he feared for his personal safety.

Other big rallies were held in Hama and Deara provinces and the Damascus suburb of Douma, according to Rami Abdul-Rahman, who heads the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The crowd estimates could not be independently confirmed because Syria has banned most foreign journalists from the country and tightly restricts the local media.

Haytham Manna, a prominent Paris-based dissident and human rights defender, said the observers' presence has emboldened protesters to take to the streets in large numbers.

"What we say like is on set, the presence of observers has had a positive psychological effect, encouraging people to stage peaceful protests—a basic condition of the Arab League peace plan," he told The Associated Press.

The observers began their mission Sunday in Homs, often referred to by many Syrians as the "Capital of the Revolution." AP

WORLDBRIEFS

33 die in India cyclone

CHENNAI, India—At least 33 people died when a cyclone hit southern India, officials said on Saturday, as engineers rushed to restore power supplies knocked out by winds of up to 150 kilometers (95 miles) an hour. Cyclone Thane lashed the coast between Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu state and the nearby city of Pondicherry on Friday, leaving in its wake a trail of destruction, officials from the affected regions said. At least 21 people died in Cuddalore, which bore the brunt of the storm, district administrator S. Arnavalli said. AFP "The extent of damage is still being assessed," he said by telephone, adding that most of the deaths occurred due to electrocution and walls collapsing in the coastal district. Five others died elsewhere in Tamil Nadu, other officials said in state capital Chennai. AFP

Doctors charged with murder

BALTIMORE—Two doctors have been charged under a fetal homicide law after an investigation into a botched abortion uncovered 30 fetuses in a Maryland doctor's freezer, authorities said on Friday, calling the case the first of its kind in the state. The doctors, Steven Chase Brigham, 55, and Nikolai Ivan Fiba, 46, were both arrested at hughlar residents on Wednesday, police in Hillsb, Maryland, said. "They have been indicted based upon a fetal homicide statute. This is probably the first case that Maryland has ever seen with this factual circumstance using this statute. It's a unique situation," Maryland State Attorney Glen Hollins told Reuters. The Baltimore Sun newspaper said the fetuses discovered at the clinic ranged up to 26 weeks in development. A fetus is generally considered viable at about 24 weeks. Brigham was arrested on Wednesday in Voorhees, Ajax, Jersey, according to a statement by the Hilton Police Department. Riley was arrested at her home in Salt Lake City without incident, according to Lt. Justin Hoyal, spokesperson for the United Police of Greater Salt Lake. Reuters

Huge wildfire closes Chile national park

SANTIAGO—Chilean firefighters on Saturday tried to extinguish a massive wildfire that has ravaged tens of thousands of acres of pristine Patagonia and forced authorities to close a popular national park. High winds fanned the blaze at the Torres del Paine National Park, a 2,400-square-kilometer paradise of mountains, glaciers, natural forests and lakes in deep southern Chile visited by more than 130,000 people each year. After spending emergency officials scrambling to get supply on the scene, President Sebastian Pinera announced that the park would remain closed throughout January. Some 11,000 hectares of woodland and scrub, nearly four percent of the total area of the park, has already been destroyed by the blaze, which more than quadrupled in size in less than 24 hours. The Chilean government has deployed four planes and a helicopter to the remote mountainous region, where 300 firefighters, soldiers and forest rangers were engaged in a desperate effort to get the inferno under control. AFP

STANDING ON YOUNG Children gesture during a march against Syria's President Bashar al-Assad through the streets after Friday prayers in Baba Amr neighborhood of Homs. The words on their hand bands read, "Freedom." REUTERS

Burma sets by-election in April

RANGOON—Burma (Myanmar) is to hold by-elections on April 1, a move welcomed on Friday which could propel democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi into the army-dominated parliament.

"The by-elections will take place on Sunday April 1, 2012," said an announcement by the Union Election Commission, read out on state radio and television.

Suu Kyi, who officially registered her opposition party a week ago, has already said she intends to contest in the polls.

Her National League for Democracy (NLD) was given the green light by authorities in recent months to participate early or elections, but is awaiting for official approval of its application.

Suu Kyi, 66, spent much of the past two decades in detention until she was released from house arrest a few days after a controversial November 2010 general election.

The upcoming vote will offer her an opportunity to seek to enter a parliament that remains dominated by allies of the former military junta.

Those who wish to take part still need to register between Jan. 16 and 31, according to the Union Election Commission announcement.

A total of 48 seats are up for grabs—40 in the lower house, six in the upper house and two in the regional assemblies.

The by-election is to fill places vacated by those elected in the November 2010 vote which many deem heavily manipulated and deputy ministers in the government.

The number of available seats is not enough to decrease the commanding majority held by the ruling military-backed party. AFP

Cheetah's death doubted

PALM HARBOR, Florida—Witnesses and other accounts are contradicting a Florida animal sanctuary's claim that a chimpanzee that pommeled Chouah, Tarzan's sidekick in movies of the early 1930s, has died at 80.

A number of chimpanzees played the sidekick role in the Tarzan movies of the 1930s and '40s.

But an 80-year-old chimpanzee would be extraordinarily old, perhaps the oldest ever known. According to many experts, it's believed chimpanzees in captivity live to between 40 and 50. Lion Country Safari in Loxahatchee, Florida, has a chimp it says is around 73.

Some Hollywood accounts also indicate a chimpanzee by the name of Jiggs or Mr. Jiggs played Chouah, alongside Weissmuller early on and died in 1938.

Debbie Cobb, outreach director at the Suncoast Primate Sanctuary along Florida's Gulf Coast, said Wednesday that her grandparents acquired Chouah around 1960 from Tarzan star Johnny Weissmuller and that the chimp appeared in Tarzan films between 1952 and 1954. During that period, Weissmuller made "Tarzan the Ape Man" and "Tarzan and His Mate." AP

NGAYONG 2012

MAGWAWAGI ANG KATOTOHANAN

TUNAY NA GALING

TUNAY NA ADVENTURE

TUNAY NA PAGKAKAISA

TUNAY NA TAGUMPAY

TUNAY NA PAGBABAGO

TUNAY NA PATALUBUGAN

TV 5

TUNAY NA PANALO!

TUNAY NA TUWA. TUNAY NA LUHA. TUNAY NA BUHAY.

Mga reality shows na tunay mong aabangan sa Bagong Taon!

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Second generation entreps do well minus mom and dad

By Margo C. Enriquez
Photos by Ashton Bhattacharyya

THESE successful new-generation lenders do not try to mimic their elders, but use the inspiration of their parents to further ventures of their own.

Alexander Scott Tan, 29, and his sister Tanya Linda, 27, got their names from their parents Alexander, the president of Scott Land Holdings and his wife Linda, the co-founder and managing director.

The umbrella company owns such high-profile lifestyle businesses as The Spa Wellness, a chain of spas; the spas, BonChon Chicken and Cafe Wine Shop-Cold (with other partners).

Both managing directors in the family firm, Scott and Tanya treated their own firms by pursuing their passions that have been translated into business.

Scott established the successful BonChon Chicken, a Korean-style chicken chain. Tanya, helped expand The Spa brand into a holistic concept that includes cosmetic dermatology with establishment of Skin Inc. and Derm'i Brown studio.

The siblings both up to their parents as role models in business, and learned the balance of innovation and delegation of responsibilities and values at work.

Quick-service route

Scott's new set-restaurant owner at St. Mary's in California when he would fly to New York and visit one of his favorite restaurants, BonChon Chicken, the food chain that popularized the spicy fried chicken trend.

"The New York Times has written many articles on its unique, spicy, crunchy, non-greasy crust and the "addictive seasoning and sauce mixes."

When he came home, Scott dutifully worked for his father's garments manufacturing business while he also studied the kitchen operations in Cebu.

He realized that entrepreneurship and food were his calling. He went to Korea to convince the principals that BonChon would be a big hit in the country and showed the family company's Cebu restaurant profile when they went to New York for training.

Last year, the Philippines became the first country to open a franchise outside of the United States. Although BonChon in the States is more of a pappa'ng hot, Scott envisioned the Philippine version as a quick-service restaurant with quality food at affordable prices, targeting families and office workers.

"I didn't want it to be a drinking hangout although we serve alcohol for people who want beer with their chicken wings," he says.

He observes that the crowd among the fast-food franchisees has been in upgrade their ambiences. With his design team, he created BonChon's signature look: white brick walls, sculptural, curvilinear ceiling and red digital menu.

"My brand is the newest restaurant chain that is hip. Although it's global, it caters to local tastes. Everything is exactly the same as abroad," he maintains.

While importing chicken is cheaper, Scott chose to support the local industry for its quality. People are attracted to the value meals such as a P149 plate of four pieces of chicken, rice and a drink and Bob tacos for P79.

The Korean ingredients also gave Scott a free hand in localizing dishes that would appeal to the local market such as the best-selling dupchee, a Korean noodle dish. In turn, he launched the fish with its distinctive BonChon crispness that has become a staple here.

Scott lost some 20 lbs cooking for the first branches in Ayala Triangle Gardens and Greenbelt 1. Responding to the increasing demand, he built a commissary and trained his culinary team.

His management style was influenced by his stint as a financial adviser in Corporate America. The managers were very democratic in their interactions with the subordinates. He applies that work ethic with his staff although he also demands the best from them.

In one year, BonChon has sustained double digit growth and opened 12 stores, with the Kamputan branch as the most profitable outlet.

Meanwhile, he anticipated other dining outlets would set up their own Korean-style chicken.

"They can copy how it's cooked but not how it tastes. Our ingredients are imported from Korea," says Scott.

Scott is bullish about opening more stores next year as the chain will offer franchising. He dreams to set make Bon Chon Philippines a major player in the food industry.

Three-in-one

Tanya is taking over the wellness business while her mother is mainly letting go.

A frequent traveler, Linda Yen enjoyed spas because of the restorative effect of the ambiance that she brought the concept to the Philippines. Tanya was barely in her teens when The Spa Wellness opened in 2005.

After acquiring a degree in finance from Santa Clara University in California, Tanya worked for Merrill Lynch. Before the recession hit America, Tanya received a call from her father asking her to help in the family business.

A fitness enthusiast, Tanya followed her instincts by researching on a new workout that would succeed in the Philippines.

She chanced upon Barre3, a workout that combined Pilates, yoga and ballet barre exercises and contacted the founder Sadie Lincoln in Portland, Oregon.

Tanya persuaded Lincoln to do business in the Philippines by showing The Spa's business profile with its seven branches and website. She flies upon three weeks with the master trainer.

In 2009, the first studio outside of Oregon opened in The Spa at the Fort, the flagship branch in Bonifacio High Street.

It has since developed a cult following from Manila's social set and weekend athletes who take to Barre3 for stress relieving.

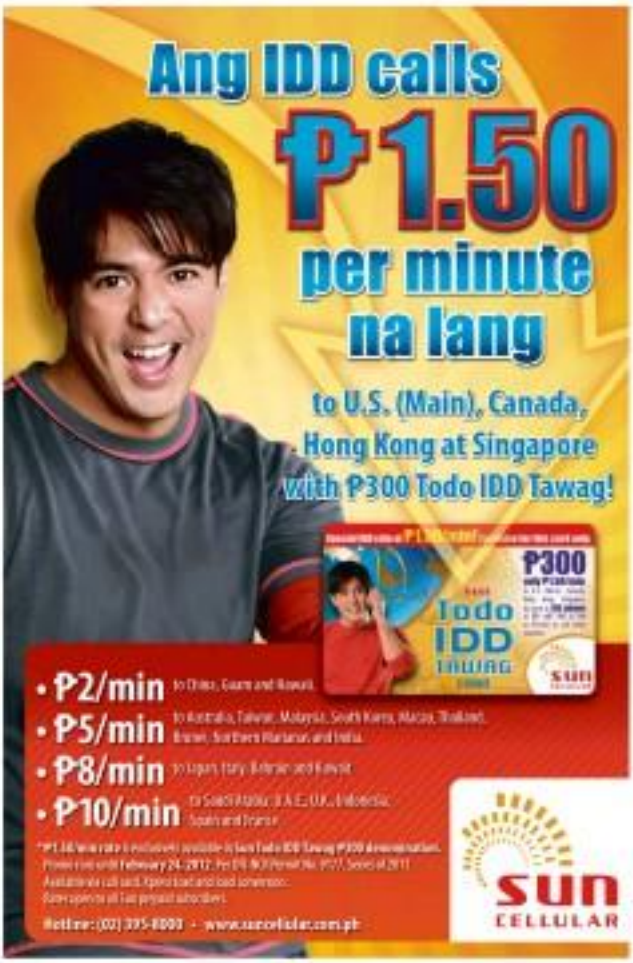
Tanya's ambitions in nurture to social media, word of mouth and the free trial classes where first-timers read up buying the full package.

Focus group discussions revealed that the market was looking for a place where wellness and beauty were automatic.

ALEXANDER Scott and Tanya Linda Tan

Power Situation Outlook
for Sunday, 1 January 2012

	7,337	1,785	1,219
	4,736	1,287	1,113
	3,601	418	106



THE SPA Wellness has seven branches and plans to expand.

Resolving to grow through relationships

BEFORE the days of GPS devices, my glove compartment was stuffed with area maps, and I wondered them to navigate the roadways. When planning vacations, I poured over printed maps to help navigate from one point of interest to the next. I recall being intrigued by the role of navigator on family trips and brushing over a map with my flashlight at night to help my father locate an upcoming turn. Also, I remember hearing a boring lecture about an atlas or an atlas... I could never quite refold the map along its original creases.

Back then, traveling with a tour guide was particularly nice because you no longer had to lug around stacks of printed maps in order to get where you wanted to go. Instead, you could simply follow the tour guide. He or she had made the trip before and could be trusted to lead you in the right direction.

Our misguided notion of self-help

When it comes to personal growth, most of us are stuck in the roadmap mentality. We scour the Internet in search of the trendiest exercise fad, or we rifle through shelves at the local bookstore to find the perfect diet plan. In attempting to make changes in our lives, we follow a strategy of self-help. The process usually is fairly simple:

- Read a book
- Apply its principles
- Experience change

However, the self-help method calls for a heavy dose of discipline, and we often don't have enough perseverance to actually apply what we learn to our lives.

The primary problem with a strategy of self-help is that it is patterned in isolation. If we're serious about making sufficient in our lives, then we would be wise to reach down a tour guide instead of scouring lasting store maps. We need people at our side to show us the way in order to reach our desired destinations in life.

In leadership, "tour guides" contribute to our personal growth in four ways.

1) Expertise: they share insights with us from their own leadership journeys.

2) Trusted opinions: they provide much needed motivation.

3) Accountability: they check in on us to make sure we're moving in the right direction.

4) Celebration: They rejoice with us when we reach significant milestones.

Application:

Make a list of your top goals or New Year's resolutions for 2012. Beside each item on the list, write the name of at least one person who could help you achieve the goal. Over the next few weeks, connect with the individuals on your list and enlist them to travel alongside you over the course of the next year as you pursue your goals.

Reprinted with permission from The John Maxwell Company and Inspire Leadership Consultancy. Begin the year by raising your leadership skills: demand The Developing The Leader Within You workshop on January 31-February 1,2012 with Maxwell-certified facilitator Francis King. Call 687-2634/709-8810 to register. For more details visit our website at www.inspireleadership.com.ph

Choosing the right network

SAMSUNG Apple's recently introduced products, perhaps the most talked about is the iPhone 4S. High anticipation and the ever-pinch entertainment for this latest Apple product in the Philippines may create would be iPhone users to forget a very important requirement when getting their iPhones: the level of technology, speed and reliability of their network provider.

So, iPhone would not be of much use if the network provider has outdated technology, slow connection speed, and an unreliable network.

This is why the wiser users only trust Globe Business when it comes to iPhones and other Apple mobile devices.

Business owners and leaders like Globe Business Ambassador Lea Binigaya advise existing, would-be and existing iPhone users to choose and stay with Globe.

"The iPhone has always been part of my work, especially as I move around the country and overseas. It is practically my virtual assistant, allowing me to be in touch with my business, business partners, family, and friends.

"The iPhone apps and features make it an almost indispensable tool for everyday living. And to make it come alive, I need a reliable network like Globe for voice, data, and internet. I believe that a premium product like the iPhone 4S must be matched with a premium service that only Globe offers," said Binigaya.

THE iPhone 4s.

Globe Telecom is the first and longest partner of Apple in the Philippines, which is why it has the most in-depth and widest experience when it comes to Apple mobile devices—from iPhone 3 to the iPad 2. The partnership between the two is tried and tested, and customers will benefit from this partnership greatly.

Globe president and chief executive Ernest Cu said the company "maximizes a formidable partnership with Apple, having had an exclusive partnership that began with the launch of the first iPhone in 2008. Its partnership with Apple has allowed Globe to offer best-value deals for the complete iPhone and iPad product suites."

Apple mobile devices are a perfect match for the high level of technology speed, and reliability of the Globe Telecom network. In fact, the release of the iPhone 4S coincided with Globe's recently announced $790-M network modernization and IT-transformation program that would make the company's base stations nation-wide HSPA+ and 3G-enabled in the next two years.

According to Bobby Romero, head of Globe Business, the iPhone 4S works in perfect sync with the 4G mobile technology of Globe.

"We were the first to roll out HSPA+ (Evolved High-Speed Packet Access) in our cell sites and have invested in the country, making early on that more and more mobile consumer devices would work on this technology. And as we continue to fast-track our network transformation program, henceforth, our capability in using 4G technologies like long-term evolution, our customers are in for a better mobile experience," Romero said.

Romero also said Globe was proud to be one of the first telecom innovation companies to bring to the country the iPhone 4S.

"We know iPhone from inside out. We've had years to study the habits and patterns of our customers who use iPhone. We have given offers that combine mobile browsing with SMS and call-what really showcase the power of iPhone 4S," he said.

Globe Business is the iPhone's biggest retailer with 130 Globe stores nationwide.

THE EMPLOYEES of Inbayo during the company's year-end party

Make sure your employees stay happy

By Michelle V. Ramos

FOR MIGHT companies engaged in business process outsourcing (BPO), ending a year with a grand party is a must. BPO firms are known to spend a substantial amount for year-end parties, making sure their employees are given the treat they deserve following a year of stress and hard work.

Inbayo, a multinational firm based in Manila and has operations in the Philippines, is one example. For the 3rd Inbayo Philippines year-end party, it rented a new venue in order to avoid the monotony of holding.

"In Inbayo, we like to emphasize that working is not an effort," says Lyn Espinosa, human resource department head of Inbayo Philippines.

"Having this party is one way for Inbayo to say thank you to its employees. This is one way for them to have fun and to be relieved of stress," she tells StandardBiz at the sidelines of the company's year-end party held at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City last Dec. 10.

It is a common notion that BPO employees are usually stress-ridden due to the heavy workload given the nature of their jobs, which require them to be at work in the evenings or early morning. This late night work is due to the fact that many clients of BPOs are based in Western countries.

Espinosa says that given the nature of work, it is important for employers to find a way for employees to unwind on occasions that will relieve them of stress. She says the year-end party is one of said occasions.

One of the highlights of the 2011 year-end party of Inbayo was the most-coveted by multi-awarded Filipino pop rock band "Imago," whose performance during the all-night party that ended with DJ performances of club music that enticed employees, both agents and leaders, to the dance floor.

Inbayo also treated GMA-7 celebrities Dennis Marasigan and Pekto Gil to performances for employees.

Moreover, a showcase of the talents of employees in the performing arts was also done through an interdepartmental competition.

"In Inbayo, we want to make sure that employees are happy. When we say happy, we mean not only financially but also in terms of opportunities for career growth as well as culture," Espinosa says.

The company official says Inbayo makes it a point to allocate a significant amount of budget for year-end parties, adding that making employees happy is one of the requirements to having a successful business operation.

"This party is something we looked forward to. Everyone is just happy to be here," says Geraldine, one of the employees.

Inbayo Philippines, one of which is also in Port Bonifacio in Taguig City, has little over 1,000 employees serving clients and customers of their clients all over the world.

Espinosa says the company's Philippine operations is currently the second biggest following Inbayo in Bangalore, India, where the headquarters if located. But she says operations in the Philippines is expected to eventually be bigger than that in India, as almost all of the company's expansion plans are to take place within the Philippines.

Espinosa says that Inbayo is putting up another site in Alabang, and it is expected to be operational within the first quarter of 2012.

"All eyes [for expansion] are now in the Philippines," Espinosa says.

She explains that this is because of the satisfactory performance of the Philippine office that has significantly contributed to the growth of the multinational company.

The Philippine operations of Inbayo, another reason BPO services to clients, which are also multinational. These services include customer service, financial management, and collections, among others.

As of the end-September of this year, Inbayo had about 140,000 employees. Its revenues as of the second quarter amounted $6.6 billion. The company expects itself to grow further next year, both in terms of number of employees and revenues.

Espinosa says the favorable outlook of the company is partly hinged on the satisfactory performance of the employees from the Philippines.

"That is why, in return, we want our employees to stay happy," Espinosa says, who went back to partying with the rest of the employees after her interview with StandardBiz.

PAL logo: 25 years hence

Yellow sunrise unifies elements of Filipino flag in new logo.

PAL LOGO old (above) and new (below).

Philippine Airlines

PHILIPPINE Airlines (PAL) celebrated its 70th anniversary last March. But unknown to many, the flag carrier is also commemorating in 2011 the 25th year of its current sunrise logo.

On July 1, 1986, former PAL president and chief executive officer Tomas U. Ramos formally presented the official corporate logo painted on the vertical fin of the PAL flagship—a Boeing 747-200—at the late President Corazon C. Aquino's at the PAL Technical Center hangar (now Lufthansa Technik Philippines).

The tri-color sunrise logo—executed by Leader Associates of San Francisco, one of the world's largest design and image consultancy firms—symbolizes the new logo, sing for the Philippines which had gained global attention after the Mendiolas Edsa Revolution (People Power I) that ended the Marcos authoritarian rule.

The inclusion of the yellow sunrise in the old PAL livery unified the elements of the Filipino flag in the new logo. So it became a source of pride and inspiration to Filipinos here and abroad as the fleetings of all 39 PAL aircraft then were painted with the word "Philippines."

The new logo no longer represented an airline company but the whole country.

The appointed Rodrigo not only emphasized the airline's home country but also PAL's position in the market as a world-class international airline.

The "new beginning" livery was also incorporated in the cabin interior with the refurbishment of the PAL fleet. Cabins were given to each cluster of people and blue white combinations organizing classes in the widebody aircraft depend the service theme.

Before 1986, the previous PAL logo was introduced in 1962. The PAL logo has been transformed nine times since 1941.

Second-generation entreps do well minus mom and dad

From page B1

In 2008, Tanya (with her mother's guidance) launched Skin Inc. or The Spa at The Fort. It was a natural development from pampering to include dermatological services provided by accredited doctors and nurses—skin tightening and body contouring using US-FDA approved machines.

Under Tanya's leadership, The Spa at The Fort became a one-stop shop for renovating, pampering and rejuvenation.

Tanya says some men are still embarrassed to be seen in male-only areas, however, client loads are down. However, The Spa's set-up angered well with them.

"People will think that they're just going to the spa," she says.

Future

Tanya says The Spa has been experiencing significant double-digit growth. She attributes it to customer management, a motivated which brings in new clients and a bullish sales team that comes up with marketing tactics. During the 15th anniversary of The Spa Wellness, it introduced membership packages which offered perks such as discounts from partner establishments and freebies. Most of the people who availed of the one-year membership were regulars.

The opening of two more branches also contributed to the growth. As the customer gets more demanding, the future is to open smaller spas that have niche with their own personality and elements that have spas with customized rooms.

Tanya adds spas have become part of the 21st century lifestyle as an antidote to stress.

On the business profitability she explains, "The price is not cheap because it's high-end. (Customers say) the quality of service is worthy."

Despite their success, Bedi and Tanya have remained humble, crediting this to the training of their parents. Tanya adds that Richard D, StartBedding' DM coaches her when the Tans travel abroad.

The family succession has a bright future as they both maintain an attitude of learning. Says Arun, "When I make mistakes, I stand up to correct them."

Tanya explains, "If you're are a good, like what you're doing and have good people, it never feels like work."

BanChan Chicken is a Korean-style chicken chain.

Life insurance 101: Identify the best plan for you

FOR MOST people, life insurance remains low in their list of priorities.

Some think insurance is too complicated and expensive, while others do not want a "one-size-fits-all" product and prefer personalized solutions that cater only to their needs. There are even those that do not believe life insurance is a good investment for their hard-earned money. ASA redefines how consumers view life insurance by giving them what they need.

It is a bundled, insurance provides protection against the risk of the unknown. It protects individuals, their family and their assets from unexpected loss. One of the most effective and practical ways of dealing with the risk of unforeseen events is to get insured.

"When people die and have insurance because they do not understand the basic things about it. Specifically, insurance is something that provides security against life's uncertainties, such as the death of a spouse, or being diagnosed with a critical illness. It also helps prepare for necessities, such as your children's education or your future retirement. These things happen, and it is important to be prepared for them," says ASA Philippines President & CEO Bert Hermano.

Hermano adds that a lot of people also do not get insured because they do not know the right kind of insurance that suits their needs. "One of the common mistakes of purchasing insurance is being underinsured or improperly insured. A good insurance company should be able to assess your needs and offer products and services for the things you need to prepare for."

INSURANCE protects individuals, their family and their assets from unexpected loss.

Common types of insurance

Life insurance is one of the most common types of insurance that is designed to take care of one's dependents, including one's spouse, children, or parents in case of sudden loss of the breadwinner. It offers economic protection that can help secure their future.

Meanwhile, health insurance covers payments for medical consultations, hospital stays, and other medical expenses and treatments. This insurance is often included in employee benefit packages.

For professionals, there are retirement insurance plans that can help them prepare for a comfortable life after years of employment.

Educational plans are likewise available to help parents pay for their children's tuition fees.

What you need

A member of the Pinto-based ASA Global Group of companies, ASA Philippines is one of the fastest growing life insurance companies in the country. It started its operations in 1999.

ASA Philippines offers a range of products and services that provide financial protection for its customers and more than reinsurance, protection, savings, retirement and financial planning needs throughout their lives. The company's expertise is in providing the first-class services and needs-based products to clients.

"We believe that insurance should not be complicated. We help customers understand their needs and prepare their loved ones and the things that matter most against life's uncertainties and risks," Hermano says.

To address the needs of young professionals and newlyweds about to start their family, there is Life eSentials that allows payments for 5 years and guaranteed security from day 1 up to age 55. It also gives 60 monthly payments in case of early retirement or terminal illness of the insured.

Another product is Heritage eSentials that gives a customer the chance to pay for 5 years and receive a one-time payout on the 11th year. For only P1,500 a month for 5 years, the customer is guaranteed a cash benefit of P100,000.00. This is ideal for those who want to set aside money for major expenses in the future, such as elementary tuition for a new car or educational expenses.

These offerings covers quick and easy enrollment because it does not require clients to answer tedious questions and undergo medical examinations. Convenient payment terms are offered as well since premiums can be automatically charged to your credit card.

"The easy and affordable solutions enable you to have sensible insurance at affordable rates. We made these products easier to acquire so more people would avail of it," Hermano relates.

Getting Life eSentials or Heritage eSentials is also hassle-free because all unites, coverages, choices, and customizations can be received via SMS. Plus, you can gain 24/7 access to your policy information, status, and details through the ASA customer hotline at +632 3231 ASA (2721) or +632 5615 ASA (2721) or by registering at https://clickasa.com.ph/login/ asha/.

Personalized solutions

To make sure that ASA Philippines will be able to address the varied needs of its customers, it constantly launches "needs-based selling" campaigns. Instead of offering prepackaged products and services, ASA Philippines makes an assessment of a customer's needs and goals through a proprietary electronic Financial Needs Analysis (eFNA) tool. The ASA financial advisor has the experience and expertise to provide a comprehensive analysis of your financial needs and offer customized solutions to fit those needs.

"ASA Philippines offers products and services to cater to the needs of different market segments. With our personalized solutions, you can be sure that your financial needs in terms of retirement, income protection, education, and health are covered," Hermano explains.

Management

ASA Philippines is also a wealth management solutions provider able to provide professional advice for high net worth individuals to help them in preserving their wealth and managing their acquired wealth.

"We help our clients not only manage but also enjoy their assets with our wealth management offerings. We are here to assist them to stay or expand their portfolio so that they may continue to pursue their passion in life," Hermano explains.

ASA is one of the world's leaders in financial protection and wealth management. It serves a global clientele of 95 million customers in 11 countries, with 4.3 billion euros in adjusted earnings as of 2010.

CSR tales of three firms

HSBC donates nearly P11M to Red Cross for Typhoon Sendong victims

HSBC recently donated nearly P11 million to the Philippine National Red Cross to assist in the recovery and relief efforts for victims of Typhoon Sendong (international name: Washi).

The bank made a total donation of P10,887,500 to Red Cross last week following donations raised by branding in southern Philippines killing nearly 1,500 people.

HSBC has also set up a presence in the Philippines to accept donations from its staff as well as a multinational company in Hong Kong to accept donations from employees around the world.

HSBC has likewise begun accepting in-kind donations from its employees particularly urgently needed supplies such as food, water, medicines and clothing.

HSBC Philippines President and CEO Tony Crippe said, "Our hearts go out to the victims of Typhoon Sendong. Since we closed our collection of funds in January, we will match the total staff donations made and send them to Red Cross. In the 116 years we've been in the Philippines, HSBC has been a steadfast committed to the well-being of the communities through our corporate sustainability initiatives driven by senior management and staff volunteers.

"This is the way we do our business, to help ensure that the community we operate in is well taken care of. Though the lives lost can never be replaced, we sincerely hope that our donation will help ease the suffering of the families of the victims and this act of kindness will be returned to them."

In total, Sendong affected 21 municipalities and over 14,000 families.

Nearly 200 were injured and 800 are still missing. About 70,000 people are currently housed in evacuation centers waiting for emergency relief goods.

"The Philippine Red Cross is thankful to HSBC for being one partners in carrying out life saving humanitarian work in time of the storm and relief phases in the aftermath of Typhoon Sendong, we enter the more crucial phase of rehabilitation of the ravaged communities. The support from HSBC will help the families and individuals who are most affected rebuild their lives so that they can once again live in dignity and Corazon Conchudos, national governor, Philippine Red Cross.

AirAsia joins forces with DSWD

AirAsia Inc. joined hands with DSWD, DOH, DOTC and PAF to help Typhoon Sendong victims in Mindanao. AirAsia Philippines' Airbus A-320 left its hub in Clark, Pampanga, early morning to pick up 6.5 tons of high energy biscuits donated by the United Nations World Food Program from Villamor Air Base in Manila before to flew to a mission flight to Cagayan de Oro City Airport on Dec. 24.

AirPhil Express and MIAA-CIQS provided cargo handling facility free of charge.

The all Filipino crew were led by Airbus Captain Johnson Hernandez, first officer Perlado Jr., senior Commander and Instructor Villanueva.

BPAP launches 'My Dream in a Shoebox'

The Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP), in partnership with strategic marketing communications firm Twenties and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), successfully launched this year's "My Dream in a Shoebox," a Christmas campaign that aims to help less fortunate children pursue their education by sending books and handing out school supplies in simple shoeboxes.

In its third run, My Dream in a Shoebox aims to reach bigger targets, including schools, bring a school and gathering at least 3,000 shoeboxes and 500 computers for public schools. A total of 7,492 shoeboxes, more than 2,000 school supplies, 130 computers and laptops, and donations of P1 million in cash donations have been collected to date and will be deployed in areas such as remote villages in typhoon-stricken Iligan City and to public schools identified by nonprofit organizations. Only 500 are left for the Department of Education.

"BPAP aimed for bigger impact and serve more disadvantaged young people," said Gigi Vicente, BPAP campaign executive director. "Tell-giving started in Lipa, Batangas, where computers and shoeboxes filled with school supplies were distributed to 1,300 kids and to the computer laboratories of Tolentino Elementary School, Pinamungajan Elementary School, and Pinamungajan Integrated National High School."

Raymond Lacdao, BPAP industry affairs director, added that funds raised by industry partners will also be used to assist those affected by Typhoon "Sendong" (international name: Washi). Funds have already been donated to Cagan City and other remote areas through the National ICT Coordination of the Philippines and ICT Davao Inc.

"We are overwhelmed with the industry's response to the campaign and thank all those who volunteered and took the time to visit the drop-off public schools this Christmas season but also remote communities affected by Typhoon Sendong we immediately reached by relief efforts, Lacdao said.

BPAP Twenties and AFP together with industry sponsors and volunteers, worked together to collecting shoeboxes, school supplies, computers, and cash donations for beneficiaries such as Children's Hour and Gawad Kalinga Pamparadise. Children's Hour aims to give marginalized Filipino children better access to quality education, quality health and nutrition, Rigonberg Pamparadise is a private sector-led organization that aims to build 10,000 classrooms by year 2015 and is being organized by the 37-71 Consortium.

Distribution of shoeboxes and family self-centered until the end of the year in different municipalities and provinces. About 30 companies and segments have so far contributed to the My Dream in a Shoebox campaign. Major sponsors include Chevron Holdings Inc., GTCAsia, Pointsource, Shi Lipana & Co., Affiliates Dune & Co., Shell Shared Services (Asia), Stream Global Services, Rothschild Global Services, and DeloTech.

For more information on the My Dream in a Shoebox campaign, visit www.inquirer.com/shoeboxcampaign.

THE RESCUE 5 team with partner HSWS 1 Public Service head Sherryl Yee and team leader Paulo Badiowas

RESCUE 5 helps prepare Pinoys to celebrate holidays safely

RESCUE 5, the emergency response unit of HSWS 1, is offering its services over the last and most practical gifts they can receive this Christmas—a series of public service interesting segments that show how to celebrate the holidays safely and prepared to any emergencies that may occur.

The segments, which will be replayed regularly, focus on probable emergencies that may happen—fires, firecracker injuries, choking and even strokes.

Shooting away from the environment of media being detached from the service it produces, RESCUE 5 has fully revamped the function of news reporting in the public setting. Premises on their very own, RESCUE 5 does its segments reporting that journalism should not end in just report-type stories.

TV5 News and Information (HSWS 1) head Luchi Cruz-Valdes says, "We may own so many cools, 34-gimmicks, skeeter. Coupled with delivering news on the dot, RESCUE 5's pledge is to employ action for any specimen of emergency situations, be it at home, on the streets, or elsewhere."

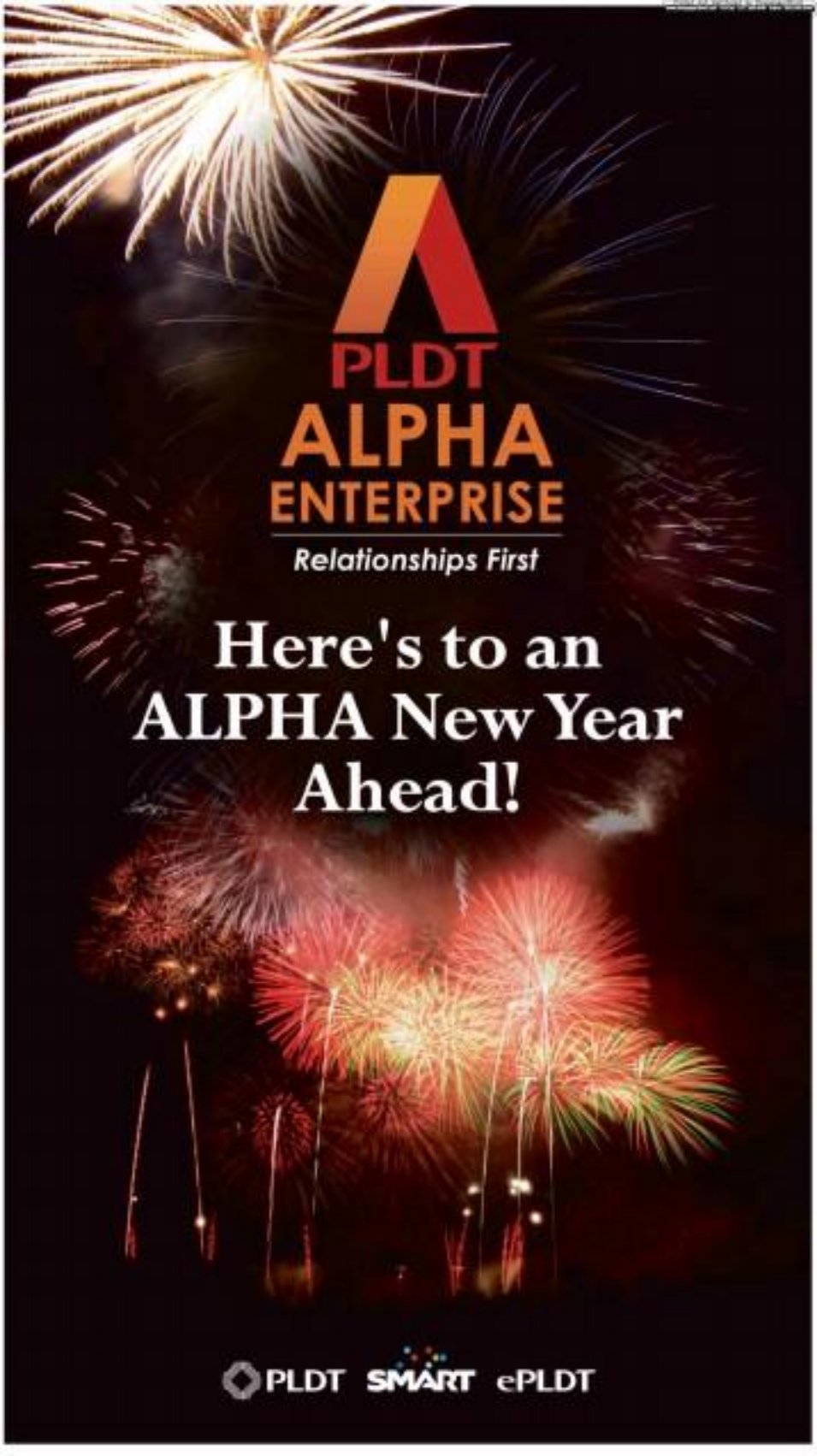
Some its accommodations, planning and implementation, the foundational team composed of TV5 President and CEO Ray Espinosa, HSWS 1 head Lucky Cruz-Valdes, HSWS 1 Public Service Head Sherryl Yee, and broadcast journalist and RESCUE 5 team leader Paulo Badiowas spearhead the service-unveiling area.

Media being usually first on the scene, HSWS 1 has redesigned and supplemented the functions of their news crews. Now, reporters and camera men are fully certified with the skills necessary for emergencies such as First Aid and CPR. Hand-held cameras for live responses, and earthquake rescue trainings. Also laden with full support from the management, RESCUE 5 is equipped with complete gear and equipment for its undertakings to be more accessible—specialized 4x4 crossovers, motorized rubber boats, as well as other paraphernalia for a plethora of rescue operations.

"Simple communications events can lead to something serious. Recharging imaging boards such as gaming mga pampaswerte (TN: important to be prepared for these events)," says HSWS 1 correspondent Benjie Borongo.

Meticulous research was involved in RESCUE 5's simulations of emergency situations and the corresponding response to his each event.

RESCUE 5 team leader Paulo Badiowas stressed: "It is crucial that we inform ourselves regarding these. Not only is there a premium on knowing these things but it can ultimately mean life and death for our family members ... it is also important that we equip ourselves with the right information—kid-ligtas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Here's to an
ALPHA New Year
Ahead!
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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

JRS EXPRESS
YOUR PARTNER IN TIME

Pinoy food going global and hip, finally

Huffington Post singles out 'arroz caldo'

FILIPINO FOOD may finally be getting its due as American tastemaker.

In Huffington Post's roundup of 2011's top new books, "Monstrous Filipino" made it to the list, citing the chicken adobo taco of Adobo Globo, a food truck in San Francisco, as well as New York's Mahabhlu restaurant's spicy arroz caldo, as among the dishes giving Pinoys cuisine a "hipster update" and "an introduction to non-Pinoys largely unfamiliar with it."

Describe food or sing to non-Filipinos and they're instantly intimidated, if not altogether disgusted. Filipino food to non-Filipinos is largely strange and offbeat—"Barsoi," the Huff Post describes it, ...due to our severe tastes to take off in popularity in the same way as other Asian cuisine have. But the efforts of ethnic Filipino restaurateurs in the US may be changing that impression by serving Pinoy food cooked using classical techniques. In short, your lowly adobo garnished.

In November, the New York Times featured Mahabhlu, a former pop-up restaurant (pop-ups are temporary eateries housed in private homes or other restaurants gles expensive to rent chefs or other culinary concepts), owned by three Fil-Ams that have found a permanent home in the East Village. (The NYT writer's mother, incidentally, is from the Philippines.)

The Huff Post also links to another website (www.realbeautiful.com) about Mahabhlu, which is featured in June where it was a never pop-up serving brunch of Tilapa-cured pork rasher, the above-mentioned arroz caldo with, is arroz with sizzly, raw pinenuts; a dish called eggs Imelda that looks oddly like eggs Benedict, the quintessential American brunch fare. The similarity ends in the poached eggs, however: The dish is served on lump-topped pan de sal, with the large head of a grilled, prawn sticking out on one side!

In terms of fan-cast food, it's hard to beat Filipino," even conceded to "Barsoi" Ilonggo cuisine. writer Endless Summer Tan said, apparently that its writers thickened out when finally faced with the dish).

For a time, Filipino food had quite a run-ways when Cendrillon in Manhattan was still around. The Filipino cuisine served Fan-Asian tasteseats robbins and got a lot of press. (They have since opened a new restaurant called Purple Yam in Brooklyn.)

In recent years, there have been new hip places in New York that are giving Pinoy food a second wind. There are, for instance, Uni Nite and Kuma Inn by a Daniel Boulud-trained chef who opens customers with numerical relatives in the Philippines (he also worked at Cendrillon). Like Mahabhlu, they were both featured in NYT and New York magazine. Charles O Morel

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VIP HOTEL'S collection of miniature houses, cars and top people spread out in a dreamy mountain resort

Homey downtown Cagayan de Oro lifestyle—before and after the tragedy

Why the city mayor allowed Isla de Oro to become a residential area boggles the mind

By Mozart Pastrana
Contributor

IN CAGAYAN de Oro City, the Christmas season usually begins with the switching of the Christmas village at VIP Hotel right smack in the main business and leisure district of Divisoria.

Eileen Yandoc-Ian Kam, a genteel Cancer who runs the family-owned hotel, loves to display in the hotel lobby the hotel's collection of miniature houses, cars and top people spread out in a dreamy mountain resort kind of scenery. Mastered by their sister, complete with holiday music and pinpricks of light twinkling at the festive come-on-notice. The city's residents adore their soap second for touristy photo-ops.

Dressing up the hotel lobby is Eileen's way of cheering up the city's lolley denizens. Her accomplices in this regard are her twin sister Lauren and their cousin Tess Cancio-Sandin, who designs the Christmas Village every year.

Once, Eileen surprised her bathroom with a collection (Charles Cancio's of top photos that seemed to swoop down from the ceiling: vintage stockings, no-nonsense heels, files of controversial models, catsuit designs.

At regular intervals, Eileen, a leading light in the Pioneers Cagayan de Oro Foundation Inc., continually exhibits the works of the city's gifted visual artists, such as the talentable Raoul Baltazar.

Not too long ago, Eileen hosted a traveling show of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts showcasing the history of Philippine media. And why not? The Cancios figured in the exhibit as the visionary founders of the Radio Mindanao Network, now an institution in the national media landscape.

But the ladies who lunch...the likes of the Kerkuma ladies such as the real Rosie Velez and her mother Consuelo Mercurio, Dr. Marissa Mercado, Nancy Lumacha, Lenni Medalla and Evelyn Sun-Chavez—go to VIP Hotel mainly for its salad buffet, aside from their usual chit-chat.

From the VIP Hotel, you may walk to the left and go east to the labyrinthine Book of the night market.

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VICTIMS of typhoon Sendong lining up to get relief goods in Barangay Bulua

MEDICAL mission at the covered court in Barangay Tibasak, Cagayan de Oro

DISTRIBUTION of relief goods in Barangay Bayanggan, Cagayan de Oro

SM reaches out to Sendong's victims

RECIPIENTS of relief goods from SM

SM PRIME Holdings donates P3 million to Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Vicente Emano for typhoon Sendong victims. Also in photo are SM ACAP Iloilo Operations Deputy Go, SM City Cagayan de Oro assistant mall manager Constantino Arce and SM PR officer Ivy Buendero.

WAITING for relief goods in Barangay Bonbon

ORC. 16, the day typhoon "Sendong" [illegible] in the Philippines, was the height of the Christmas rush, and SM City Cagayan de Oro was scheduled to be open until midnight.

However, strong rains and winds, unlike anything the city had seen before, had started to be felt by late afternoon. And with the electricity tripping, mall management decided to close at 5:30 p.m. to let shoppers and employees have a safe journey home.

The following day, officials of the mall thought of opening its [illegible] areas to employees and shoppers who had been affected by the typhoon.

As more grim news came during seven and relief operations, the SM Group quickly found ways to help out typhoon victims. SM Prime Holdings turned over P3 million to Mayor Vicente Emano to assist the city government in relief work.

SM Prime, together with SM Foundation and the SM Supermarket chain, then worked on packing goods for relief bags. Each bag would contain food that could easily be sustained—water, bread, noodles, crackers and some fruit. In addition, SM Prime contributed 10,000 bottles of water daily for seven days.

As soon as evacuation centers were set up, Investors immediately distributed bags to 1,382 families in the West City Central School. The mall then distributed goods to 500 more families in the Kauswagan Barangay Hall.

From Dec. 21 to 23, SM Foundation distributed bags to 11,000 families. Coordinating with various local government agencies, SM Foundation chose to distribute to areas that had not been covered by previous relief efforts.

SM Foundation's Bob Morida is grateful that they were able to reach out to people who had gone for days without food, but some to Barangays Tibasak and Balubing were particularly insulting as "many of their homes were destroyed. So with Barangay Consolacion, where there was no electricity and the debris from homes and cars were all over."

SM City Cagayan de Oro public relations officer Ivy Buendero recalls the sad sight of families going back to see what had happened to their homes.

By Dec. 23, SM had distributed goods to 12,962 families, and there will[illegible] continue over the holidays. "We hope to help a total of 17,000 families before New Year," says Bordia, who remained in the area to distribute goods to Iligan and other places in Cagayan de Oro that need and yet been reached.

More recently, SM Prime has allocated an additional 2,000 bags as well as 3,000 mats and blankets for Iligan.

SM Foundation also conducted medical missions in four common shelters and clinic rounds of 2,875 refugees in Barangays Tibasak, Balubing and Macasandig, as well as the West City Central School on Dec. 21 and 23.

To date, the group has donated P30 million in Sendong victims—P3 million in cash and P7 million in goods.

SM hopes to be able to extend more help, and encourages employees to do their share. Manila have been set up at all SM Supermalls nationwide from Dec. 21 to 30 for shoppers to donate goods or cash. They may also deposit their donations to SM Foundation at BDO Account No. 6890018327.

"There is still so much to do," says Bordia.

Homey downtown Cagayan de Oro lifestyle—before. . .

KIDS from an orphanage visit the Christmas Village at SM Mall.

BRIGHT LIGHTS. [illegible] The Philippine Eagle Christmas Park was a favorite of the city residents and some kind of display drew people like [illegible]

HE'S THE MAN. His recent leadership has astonished city officials as mostly all posters and promises—and has just Gov. Oscar S. Moreno in the forefront as a city looking for the right kind of leadership.

PEACE COUNTRY. Rolando Pelaez (left) welcomes architects, engineers and many professionals to build a 1,000-seater convention center with a mall and a hotel ...by the Cagayan de Oro River

ELLEN Tan Juan, vice president of Promote Cagayan de Oro Foundation Inc.

On weekends, the division is transformed in what is generally considered as the sluggish, [illegible] of the four-term city mayor, the Honorable Vicente T. Emano—the Night Café, a restaurant-lined pedestrian lane parallel to the river.

Further down the road, past the Divisoria area, is the Golden Circle, the [illegible] bridge which had become, until very recently, a very happening place in anticipation of the Divisoria [illegible] built under the aegis of Dr. Rolando T. Pelaez and her Zenith Group. The Oasis will have a mall, a hotel and a 3,000-seat convention center all designed by the environmentally savvy architects of Pelaez and Associates.

The ongoing construction in the Oasis saved so many people during the flood, serving as a safety refuge from the rolling waters below. Even the trees in the area suddenly flowered with people scrambling up for survival.

But if, upon leaving the VIP Hotel in downtown Cagayan de Oro, you turn right and double back, you will pass the Central Elementary School, now a major evacuation center.

This stretch of road is called Velez Street, the city's main artery. It's named after the Cagayan de Oro hero who, during the Philippine-American War in the turn of the previous century, waged an [illegible] of American soldiers.

Way back then, this was the Calle del Mar, or the road that ended up in the sea.

At the time, there were only three streets in the city, all originating from the hub of Spanish colonial power in Cagayan de Oro—the area now known as Gaston Park, the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. Augustine and the Bishops Palace, where the much-loved and much-revered Bishop Antonio Ledesma, SJ holds sway over his beleaguered flock.

The two other streets were the Calle de la Iglesia, the road that began at the church doors; and the Calle Real, the road that spilled out of the Spanish fort. Today, these streets remain as well, but renamed: Rizal Burgos Street and Capistrano Street, respectively.

Burgos Street originally dominated the Cagayan de Oro River. Over the years, it began to be usurped in by a multitude of houses. And when it could no longer accommodate the onrush of a population crunch, Burgos Street became the jumpoff point to Isla de Oro, a delta of reclaimed land in the middle of the river.

Why the city mayors allowed it to become a residential area boggles the mind, but to no time at all it became the choice residential enclave of [illegible] and techno-students. Isla de Oro was erased by the ravaging waters last month.

Capistrano Street, up the slope from parallel Burgos Street and away from the river, is fashionable today because of [illegible] such must-go-to's as That Ma Ely, a delightful open-air dessert diner, and Atelier Lachica, the foremost fashion shop in the city run by Melvin Lachica, chief artist for the Department of Tourism to represent the Philippines for innovative fashion at the Model Expo in Lisbon.

Capistrano Street was tapped by floodwaters, but there the deluge came to a halt, as if to warn the [illegible] of the water [illegible] the low-lying areas had become.

Which means that Velez Street, the city's main street, had relatively been left unscathed.

CELEBRATING LIFE. Patrick Gabutina believes in the redeeming power of beauty, so he [illegible] such public spaces as the Misamis Oriental Capitol Park.

And now, if you continue your walk past the Central Elementary School, you will pass by the City Library, which has been ignored all these years by the city government; it has become such a nasty affair. And there's the [illegible] opening Pelaez Square and Gaston Park, the Misamis Oriental General Comprehensive High School and then the stately Provincial Capitol Building of Misamis Oriental.

This is where your walk of downtown Cagayan de Oro would probably wind up. If [illegible] Cagayan de Oro, where SM City is [illegible], was named from the intimacy) Here, the capitol and its sweeping garden welcome you to evocative Christmas lights—not fancy, not cheap, but exalted in its quiet eloquence.

The popular Gov Oscar S. Moreno has allowed his provincial administrators, the artist Patrick Uypangco Galbatan, to continue the tradition of lifting everyone's spirits at this time of year with good cheer and to good taste.

That's the game, I suppose. All things considered, the leadership of a burgeoning and beleaguered city such as Cagayan de Oro requires, at the very outset, good taste that ruptures all our biases, our dreams and yearnings. The city residents are in search of other community leaders and leadership, like, dearly, the Girls are calling for them.

Meanwhile, Dr. Rose Marie Sano of the Safer River, Life Savers Foundation Inc. is busy running comprehensive relief operations in the riverside barangays, which has been all weekend out. The relief operations are based at the Civic Center of Lions U. Please get in touch with Dr. Marie[illegible] through 0916-3579218.

Hotel's first anniversary bash becomes grand Christmas celebration

THE HADDISON BLA Hotel in Cebu celebrated its first anniversary with one of the grandest parties of the season. The occasion also served to celebrate Christmas. Quite a crowd had gathered at the spacious lobby by 8 p.m.

Receiving the guests was general manager Lyle Lewis, who is also vice president for the Philippines and Japan of the Carlson Hotels. With him was Roy Villas, executive VP of JM Hotels and Conventions, accompanied by his beauty queen wife, Carol.

Lighting up the 10-ft blue tree were Rose Sy, president of JM Investments Corp., and his sister Elizabeth Sy, president of JM Hotels and Conventions, of which the Haddison Bla is a part of.

Close by were Elizabeth's right-hand person Christina Bautista, and Lourdes Macalinao, VP for sales and marketing of JM Hotels and Conventions.

Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama was present, as were Rep. Tomas Osmeña of Cebu City's South district, with his wife Councilor Margot Osmeña, Traffic chief Sylvan Jakosalem, former Undersecretary of Tourism Edmundo Jarque and Marissa Reyson, VP for Treasury and Mindanao of JM Prime Holdings.

Beautiful music from a string orchestra wafted from the mezzanine, and there were Christmas carols coming in a choir from the Radisson stall. A grand fireworks display capped the first part of the celebration.

After that, Elizabeth and Gina led the elegant crowd up the staircase to the Veera Music ballroom for a grand lunch that featured Nora Aunor's famous Caviar Club of the roasting 'stik.

Glimpsed were VIPs from the Carlson Hotels and Asia Pacific like Stefano Mebrow Hungi, assistant VP and chief development officer; Vasos Economou, chief finance officer; Lucien de Schmack, executive VP for business promotion; Rosie Hallile, and Simon Barlow, president of Asia Pacific.

Tessa Prieto-Valdes, in a surveying gown by top Cebu designer Ronald Gaviola, was the evening's lively and scintillating host.

Imelda Primo's dancers rendered several numbers to Charleston music, and that set the mood. Top performers

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Piccavell

from Showman and Richard Poon were very much applauded, and the three Monkeys kissed their brand of easy-listening music (!).

Among the prominent guests were Rep. Cadet Abel Blar of Cebu City's North district, with her father Rudolfo Blar; Gloria Lopez with daughter Kate, Toronto Mendoncina with niece Carmen Campbell; Alice Plaza with Isabel Bro Pelaez.

Also: Amy Reynolds with daughter Cybill Pagsibo and Marissa Barbosa with daughter Marian; Emily Dizon, Josephine Alsobrook Bourdy; UK Honorary Consul Moya Jackson with husband Antony and daughter Tamsin Burell, and many more.

Top prize in the raffle was won by Salustillo Abejuela, who got an overnight stay at the Radisson Blu presidential suite for two, plus other amenities, including spa treatment. There were prizes for the best costumes harking back to the 1930s.

Tessa was looking for Augustin Gualliber who had come in an all-white outfit, complete with jeweled headband, sporting a homburg and white carrick chaise. Red Augustin had left early.

The merry continued and the winners were Yvette Sun and Bong Benjamin of Amazing TV show. The party went on, and GM Lyle Lewis was repeatedly congratulated for the tremendous success of the celebration.

Also welcoming hosts were the Haddison's top people in Cebu like Zenaida Alcantara, executive assistant general manager; Carmela Cabahug, director of finance; Laurie Candelaria, the Manila-based sales director; Rhea Cervantes, marketing and communications director; and Lica Ros, public relations coordinator.

Special plaudits go to Ms Kok Bii, the Food/Beverage director, and executive chef Marye Amancio. There were several buffet tables groaning with the very best cuisine in the Haddison Bla offers, from the crispy skinned pekeng duck to the array of scrumptious desserts.

'Phantom'-inspired masquerade

On the days that followed there was much activity at the Haddison. One of the grandest was the emphasis bash of the M. Lhuillier group of companies. It had a Masquerade theme based on the musical "Phantom of the Opera." Most of everyone, specially the ladies, came in outrageous costumes.

Dance numbers were fantastic, worthy of a Dingdong show, and the singers doing the "Phantom" duets were much applauded. Presiding it all were Michel Lhuillier and his wife Amparito Lhuillier, who are with Michel's sister Angie L. Medrano and grandson Nat, and Amparito's sister Marie Llamas Dizon.

Applause greeted Michel and Amparito's children who were here for the holidays, as they came in, first were Yvette and Francis Warmoes from Cebu, with children Maxine and Maxime. Then came Monique and Tom Hughes.

Making a dash from the airport to home and on to the party were Lhuillierans Michael and Joanna Lhuillier with their three stopping children, Michael James, Miles and Matthew.

Amazed at illicit relationships among OFWs

DEAR EMILY,

I've been working here in Saudi Arabia, and it's amazing to see some of our married colleagues engage in illicit relationships while they still have spouses back in the Philippines. Pa rin ako! Since 1976, on "the fake couples." They even share bogus marriage certificates to the religious police, live in apartments reserved for families, and have the gall to exchange Christmas cards as couples. If you didn't know these people, they can, in fact, pass as married.

I once asked a friend of mine point blank what happens when he goes back home for vacations. He said it's like having controlled amnesia, and simple forgiveness has fixed a relationship skewed. Once home, they go back to their families, act like the loving husband or wife, dote on the achievements of their children, and go to church like what a devout parent and spouse does. When they return from their vacations, they go back to the same illicit relationships like nothing has happened.

What is the dynamics for this sort of relationships?

—David

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Mercado

Who knows what goes on in the minds of these people? Are they bored with children or their emotional freedom? Revenge at how late has made them a bad deck of cards? Anger at not finding the promised milk and honey in the streets of the Arabian oil peninsula? Self-pity and depression? Or sadness despite material hard work? It's almost like provoking fate with the arrogance of, "So what if I am blatantly having an affair! So, what now?" Imagine being in a strange country with almost no close friends at arm's length for one to run to their loving relatives. So, what's a lonely person to do?

Isn't it ironic, if not pathetic. Our the reason these OFWs go abroad is to earn money to improve the lives of their children by providing them the kind of education they never had? Or to build that dream house to grow old in? Yet, they have shortsighted and flash-in-the-pan relationships that destroy the very essence of those dreams. And these countless, pernicious scenarios are happening like it's nobody's business.

Similarly, some of those husbands and wives left at home suddenly find themselves flush with money and have the resources — loneliness, angry sour excitement of their own, liberated from home with who are coming home for vacation often lament that instead of looking forward to a warm and pleasant homecoming, they dread seeing both to a point where they wish their spouses have left them for younger mates.

It shows how people react when left to their own devices.

Yes, as a man of conscience, cringe at what you see, while those you're seeing have comfortably created "solutions" to their perceived "problems."

Different strokes for different folks!

E-mail emilyofw@inquirer.com.ph or emilyofw@gmail.com, subject: Lifestyle

SUDOKU

Concepts Sudoku

	3			4			7	
1								2
			1		6			
	4		9		8			
6			2		4			7
		8		5		3		
			4		8			
7				7				1
	6					5		

answer to previous puzzle

1	4	8	6	2	3	5	7
7	2	3	9	5	1	4	8
5	8	6	7	4	2	9	1
8	6	9	3	1	7	2	5
4	3	1	5	8	9	7	6
2	5	7	1	6	4	8	3
6	7	2	8	3	5	1	4
9	1	4	2	7	6	3	5
3	9	5	4	9	8	6	2

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

NEW 130-ACROSSES

answer on page D2

Church marks solemnity of Mary today

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Doronio

TODAY AS we celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, I recall what Fr. Oliver Greatorex told his parishioners in Our Lady of Fatima Church in Binakayan, Cavite in 1990.

At that time, a new church was being built, while Mount was still being held in the small church along the main road in Kawit. He said, "Kumapit kayo sa palda ng Birhen at huwag bibitaw. Kumapit sa laylayan ng Birhen at huwag bibitaw. Kapit sa laylayan ng Birhen at huwag bibitaw. Kapit sa laylayan ng Birhen at huwag bibitaw. K

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Sexy. Stimulating. Sage. Survivor

SHARING THE VOICE OF AGE AND WISDOM

Contributing Editor Chin Rocco

Year of the Dragon, bow!

RIVER of Tears

I pitied the poor western dragon. It was always being made a stand-in for Satan. Oriental dragons are better regarded.

Gilda Cordero Fernando

FOREVER B1

MY INTRODUCTION to mythical dragons was the image of Archangel Michael hacking at a dragon which catapults into eternal fire. Eventually, it becomes the iconic label of a gin bottle. Michael with the vanquished devil is also the figure on an oozing-oozing medal selling in Quiapo. It is supposed to bestow courage on its wearer.

There above was the figure of the legendary St. George riding a horse and running a drag on to death. The dragon was supposed to be a curse of the plague. It polluted the water of the town's lake and made the people ill. To stay clean, the dragon had to be bribed periodically with a maiden sacrifice. (which it presumably ate).

One day, there were just no more young maidens left to offer, except the king's daughter. That was a bit much, and St. George trampled the beast to death. St. George won many followers who became Christians (it seems now to be St. George's hidden mystery).

Since I am constantly for the underdog, I pitied the poor western dragon. It was always being made a stand-in for Satan. Western dragons always live in some dark cave where they have to be smoked out or lassoed to death, spitting fire and all.

Oriental dragons are better regarded. They are never depicted as racial stereotypes. There are water dragons who take care of the H2O of wells, rivers and seas/lakes. Today is my birthday. Asian dragons protect a lot of other things.

DRAGON 02

From Shakespeare to 'jologs' (or embracing one's 'chorva')

By Renato (Butch) Santos
Contributor

POETRY, LIKE a toothache, was a pain in school. Like Fr. Bartolomeo, S.J. bending out its third year high to no who failed to compose a quatrain modeled, measure for measure, on Shel ley's "Ode to the West Wind."

Drudgery, too, in Freshman A.B., despite H. Harry Paraji I remember him saying that had his sister been named Helen, she'd be known as Helen Paraji (Irony was pronounced with a silent A). Such welcome relief on boredom from

SHAKESPEARE B2

Year of the Dragon, bow!

From page D1

They are the favorite of New Year rewards who flock to Chinatown to watch the Dragon Dance and eat pancit.

The Philippine dragon is known as the *bakunawa*, a sinister-smelling creature with some secret resentment in its heart, it rises up from the sea and tries to eat the moon. To keep the *bakunawa* from ruining the moon's completely and causing a total eclipse, the Filipino natives of Ternate all hopefully emerge from their houses, beating pots and pans. This reportedly frightens the *bakunawa* into spitting the moon back into the sky.

I have interpreted my dragonist in my principles, although my grandchildren say they can draw better dragons. I love the eastern dragons' pop eyes, gnashing mouth and curly flow ing whiskers. Western paint dragon scales green, pink, red or blue, whatever, since nobody has ever seen a dragon. My dragon was meant for interior, so they'real- ways good because mediator possessions you.

(I in "Dragon Tamer ing is an Art," a girl in her private chamber of dreams, nodding languidly to a butterfly.) The top third of the painting shows her defying convention by riding a lithe, naked, reinventing with the dragon in the sky. The lower third of the painting shows all those conventional women gasping about her. (Artwork by Lamelle Rivera Fernando)

(I) In "River of Years," the young daughter (top) has befriended her instincts (the dragon) and is happy with the world. Her mother (below) is still attached to bad memories in her past and can't stop weeping. The lower part of the drawing is, like the swollen, half submerged in water. They'll eventually snap out of it. (The dreamy, tired hand below means nothing.) It was just something I found among my scraps and pasted on.)

(-) "St. Michael and the Fallen Angels" shows the Archangel with swords on his back (like a ninja). He has just cast down the bad angels. There was a blush spine on either side of the composition so I drew in a pair of dragons. I was so pleased with myself until my daughter (already complained, "My, my, such long pants there!" Actually, I love the painting. Damn it by Tina Tinoco Lebron

"ST. MICHAEL and the Fallen Angels"

"DRAGON Taming is an Art"

From Shakespeare to 'jologs'. . .

From page D1

the grind that runs English Lit/sink there!

Not so with Tagalog. When I was a child, every time we ran across my Nanay Oseas reading from the romantic novels of J. Hans to Gelmanes (translated to Pushdah and Lt. Bayang), we found being bilked to sleep. (I would eventually be bilked by my own books—elegant and mellifluous, musical and powerful.

Then one night Maldoor's eyes lit up. My hometown, in this burst of Rizalphilopia, was the home of the "batang," the precious of nicknaming, really the art of mockery to jest, of pitching clever barbs at everyone and everything because life's a joke.

A whole clan was called "Bulitong" because an ancestor spoke too loudly another was "Ingasa," in remembrance of a ship which an ancestor designed, and had no sooner been launched when it sank like a rock, to Mustang "Gunda," whose face was pockmarked.

My aunt Amalia's last name is Sayo (Ang Sayo), drilled into my "Kalyos" with each seething valdezated to build up stamina as having failed to measure up to my lodong, my great-great-grandfather. He was the model for Hizal's Pilosopong Tasyo, wizard of the wise, ugly dark and cross-eyed.

He had mastered the town brothel whose servants booked upon, advancing her from mere waitresses as she walked on almonds balanced by Lelong, after which they exclaimed, "Inalas! Kanapa ng langit nga na 'yan ay pasali!" (There on that! Heaven, mixed in a cesspool!)

Today, with every high tide that floods Malabon, its gentry is driven to settle elsewhere, leaving the town to migrant crews of fishing boats. Much of Maldoor's past is being lost, its unique patois and lore slipping silently into the global tide.

Such loss can only be accelerated. Graduates must be proficient in English if they are to be employed in call centers, I.T. and BPO.

Sink or swim

Either we sink or we swim. Across will succeed. Our native language must retain its lofty luster for the young and become streetsmart, as it will if left into disuse. Should this mean propping up the Bulagsman with Taglish, Synaggalog, gayapinak, jolography, ate-ateh or bakinese, well... why not?

So here goes a Shakespeare sonnet convoluted into straight from the heart. Its Mic-Jpeare version, Children!

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;
(Pinkiday na aysaw ang mata ni ng-ayong dyowk.)
Coral is far more red than her lips' red.
(Pulá ng kuripang labi sa kanila ay dobadu.)
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dusky;
(Kung puti mun ang pets, saan nga'y dumadi.)
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.
(Kung buhok ay alambre, yon na ngá ang tumubó sa ulo.)
I have seen roses damasked, red and white,
(Mga rosas na hinabi, kayo'n white-red,)
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;
(Hanggang ngayon sa piange mga'y hindi kasi kaysa pa.)
And in some perfumes is there more delight
(Na pabango'y kaloyoy dang dtaro ay dtd na-dedi)
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.
(Sales alalbo' ka sa kanyang mucharuang kisingo.)
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know
(Gusto ko hear her speak, yet well I know
That music hath a far more pleasing sound.
(Sa hombres cha ng flute na kalembang pa ng Quinpi.)
I grant I never saw a goddess go;
(Sabihing sadang diyosang kung tumam-pas ay langit.)
My mistress when she walks treads on the ground.
(Amagad pó ang Ashalkid at lupá ng kanigoyo.)
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare
(Ito, pakuput, 'wag sanay-kuh ang tsa'ng)
As any she belied with false compare.
(Sapagkat kakaw'n ay pasa-kong pinya, at amagang ba.)

The author was a teacher all his professional life. Retired, at 87, he is reinventing himself as a poet, having won several Palanca or tagalog poetry.

Another chance for us to get it right

'Today, the first day of the year, we have opened the book'

Conchita C. Razon

MY CHAIR ROCKS

HAPPY NEW Year! It is 2012!

What are my expectations? Always the state of the nation. The answer says that the general outlook is positive. In fact, one paper states that optimism for 2012 is at its highest level. Good wishing, it will be good!

The end of a year, and the beginning of a new one are marked by the making of lists of memorable events or people, described in superlatives.

We talk about the most unforgettable events, the life-changers or, at least, the game-changers. What made the headlines? Who is Man or Woman of the Year? Is there business-they-keep? Are Movie of the Year, Song of the Year, Actor, Actress, Singer, you name it.

The categories include the notable and the notorious. Did you know that in 1938 Adolf Hitler was Man of the Year for Time magazine? Go figure.

Celebrities and personalities are asked about their New Year's resolutions.

The only resolution I recall ever keeping was to quit smoking. I did, and kept smoking in 1994, and I have not had a puff since. It is, without doubt, the best thing I ever did in my life.

But why is an unsolicited opinion given the last day of the year? None others to an unsolicited opinion. No other night-owls in such a garish and gaudy manner. Firecrackers, although banned, still explode all around you. Fireworks light up the sky, and we love it! We gasp and gape in child-like wonder, never mind that pollution will be at an all time high the next morning.

Why is there such hype? We count down the last 10 seconds of the year as if our lives depended on them.

It could be that for the year ends, we are eager to start fresh, and anxious to right the wrongs of the old year. Like Oprah Winfrey said: Cheers to the New Year and another chance for us to get it right.

Romantic notion

When I was very young, there was this romantic notion that at the stroke of midnight, whoever you were with would be with you for the rest of the year, if not the rest of your life.

Allow me to put that myth to rest. Like the song in *Dirty and Dear* goes, "It Isn't Necessarily So."

But we believed it. The midnight countdown at our parties was the climax of the celebration. At exactly 12 o'clock, the lights would go out. Just for a few seconds as the oldies would yield.

There was only enough time for a quick kiss for the timid ones. Of course, the brief time of darkness was not long enough for the bold as couples. They were considered "wild" in my time. In today's world, they would be considered for the nursery or sanitarium.

As maturity midnight, they played "Auld Lang Syne." There was always a lot of kissing, hugging and crying while we sang about old acquaintances being forgotten. I noticed that the oldest people got really sad, crying. I would cite many years to understand that this brief moment could truly bring up the memories of a lifetime. In the middle of the merriment, we recall "tokens of the pleasures and, regrets for all the years we wasted, losses of half-forgotten times, most from familiar places, bittersweet reminders of lovers loved and lovers lost."

Instant flashback

And so it is that at midnight of the 31st of December (actually January 1st!) we have the instant flashback. It renews many of us to tears. And in between sobs and crying, we wish one another a Happy New Year. It is really quite funny if you think about it. Of course, it could also be the champagne.

So how was New Year's Eve at your house?

Before the war, Mama would wear a floor-length gown or *traje de mestiza* and Papa wore a formal *traje de fino* in the elegant New Year's Eve ball at the Manila Hotel or The 41 Shanty Club. I loved to see them all dressed up like that. In my eyes they looked like movie stars.

We were allowed to have a friend or cousin for a sleepover, and we could stay up all night. The round dining room table was set with the finest tablecloth and napkins and our best china. There were 12 succulent grapes on each plate; champagne glasses filled with sparkling grape juice for the children and the real stuff for Mama and Papa, and dessert, usually a merengue de café from La Suiza. All ready for midnight.

Papa and Mama made it a point to have their party a few minutes before the countdown to come home. They brought home and fun for everyone. He welcomed the New Year together, gulped down our grapes, ate for each month of the New Year, and lit up leaves de Bengala. Traditional accompaniments, yes "happily ever after" they went back to bed and they went back to the ball.

It was all so simple then.

I really am not into making New Year's resolutions, which seem like a writer, "just go into one year and out the other."

Instead, I want to play "Wish to Sing!"

Let me start with this:

I long to hear someone say "only in the Philippines!" (not mockingly but with pride)

That song goes for "Pinoy Ime."

Unlike in our young people sing subservient they are doing and stand when our National Anthem is played and to sing it "with fervor burning."

I don't want to hear youth-vs-Yuppy battles, especially if that battle is Pinoy-B'Sters is a problem, don't look for someone to blame. It is your country. Fix it!

I could go on and on.

But since long ago, I wished there was an answer "song" sung." See? Wishes do come true!

Here's a lovely New Year's thought.

I quote from Ashli Lovejoy Flores:

"Today, the first day of the year, we have opened the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to write the words on how ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter begins on New Year's Day."

Giving the gift of tech can be pleasant

How to make the tech-phobic senior in your life love his or her new gadget

By Tatin Yang
Contributor

TABLETS

EVEN TOO conversations with our parents and grandparents are working as very new-world gadgets do just, but they often end up giving up on them, calling it too difficult, resorting to their old, trusty low-tech phones/computers.

This year, give them a gift that will keep giving—a gadget that's already set up and ready to use.

Our tips on how to make gadget giving this Christmas to the seniors in your life pleasant for you and for them.

1. Preload everything

Giving your folks or your grandparents a new gadget is good, but taking the time to set it up is much better. Most people tahos receive gadgets but do not have the patience to begin with an empty device and up- ogy-spanning it, as I discovered when my Dad got his iPad.

I decided in holiday the iPad for a day, set up an Apple ID for app and music purchases, and preloaded the device with apps, books and magazines that I felt he would like. Fine enough. She is a voracious surfing novel- gadgets in this same manner and he ended up enjoying the iPad more because it already came with content he liked, with most tasks being easier since she didn't have to start from scratch.

Once you get the basics done for, be sure to inform your senior user about creating naming (but easy to remember) passwords and how to look out for suspicious phishing or scam websites. Better yet, create and install bookmarks on the browser to direct you check on their internet of typing in the address on the box.

2. Teach safety and security

A friend once told a story how her mom's e-mail account got hacked, requiring her to change her password, which she then promptly e-mailed to all her contacts.

Once you get the basics done for, be sure to inform your senior user about creating naming (but easy to remember) passwords and how to look out for suspicious phishing or scam websites. Better yet, create and install bookmarks on the browser to direct you check on their internet of typing in the address on the box.

3. Set up accounts

Most smartphones and tablets require linking to pre-existing accounts. Set up the accounts by them already, like Facebook (if they don't have it yet) and e-mail. Create a password they can change later if they choose to. Surprise them on Facebook by looking for their friends who are already using the social-networking site.

4. Free tutorial included

Help them master their new gadget by setting aside one full day to teach them the basics—thethings-mail, reading-books and purchasing digital content. This will help them bond with their new toy and also create quality time for you guys.

Gadgets seniors will love

Here's a list of our recommended devices for seniors:

1. iPod Nano

Perfect for: The kids who listen to go for power walks once a day.

How to use it up: Fill the iPod with playlists of favorite songs from their youth plus a few inspirational ones that will get them motivated to move. The iPod also comes with a fitness monitor so they can track their progress and save it on the computer.

Where to buy: Apple resellers like The S. Shop, Digital Walker and National Book Store.

COVER D4

Domestic affairs

In my parents' house, the cooks and nannies, the drivers, houseboys and gardeners, the handymen and carpenters made easy friends among themselves–and then some

By Melinda de Jesus
Contributor

IT SEEMS to me that in the sunny city where I was born, my father would muster to himself, each time another domestic affair broke out in the open in my parents' house. The servants seemed given to bouts of tetanus, coupling in lust or falling in woe and genuine love, making marriages which outlasted their unfortunate conceptions.

My memory is filled with these stories, some scandalous moments, engagements and lover's quarrels coming to light after much whispering, resolved by copious weeping, punctuated by fits of rage or just-sung ending in tearful confession. In Boracay, to hurried shopowners in the grocery, or in mall department stores of rejected items.

Later, after I had left home, I would say when I found more of these stories that it wasn't the sun, it was the house and the spirit it fostered. For me, it had so many reasons, so many answers it was dense. Aside from frequent parties, the slightest excuse would create a feast to be served. Mother kept house with many projects, and each activity engaged a great many hands.

She would have them working on whatever it was she fancied at the time, changing drapes and curtains, stabling palfreys and other parents, building a fountain that sputtered into a fishpond, planting cabbages with a view, raising poultry in the backyard, hanging her or children on a trellis by the wall.

New love

Her pleasure at these tasks was catching, and the work would be finished only after months talking among her helpers, much joking and laughter; and another new love would blossom right under her supervising nose.

Perhaps, the house and its joyful activities generated a kind of electricity for those who worked there. Or as it seemed, as the cooks and nannies, the drivers, houseboys and gardeners, the handymen and carpenters staying in for seasonal work made many friends among them, advice—and there were. Their meals in the kitchen took about as long as ours in the dining room, and the washing of dishes was an extended chattering and chattering affair.

Leonardo, a driver, fell in love with Lilia, a lovely lass from Leyte, and they married and made their first home in the room adjoining the garage. Pablo, the houseboy, stayed long enough to learn to drive. When it was his turn to drive us to school, eyes framing tapped, along with the first grade chest for the daily milk. Soon enough, Pablo had found a wife.

Mother's young aunt Manang got pregnant by a visiting relative from the province. Because she slept in the children's room, I heard of her predicament, although I could not know what it was about. I knew only that something was wrong, as I awoke to the sound of her whimpering, her secret shared with another pair in the darkened nursery.

And then there was Tony, the gifted young cook who fell in love with the gentle gardener Ido; Tony's all dismayed because we thought she deserved better; but, obviously we were also afraid she would leave us and run off with him to Ilocos.

Of these matches, the most remarkable was Salustiano's courtship of the quiet, colorless Daning. Salus was my mother's special assistant. He could cook, he could clean, he could crochet and sew. He also played the piano. He was always willing to hold up swathes of cloth from the rolls on the high windows so my mother could trim the drapes to the changing light.

Daze, when my mother wanted to stand a rather large statue of Jesus Christ against some imposing palms willingly stood in to plant with his arms outstretched so we could all see the effect. He liked being our new recipient and conquering palms walls other women in the house about a design for a bed spread or a curtain he wanted to crochet. I don't remember anyone ever calling him "gay"; perhaps because he wasn't flamboyant like the

luminaries who would come to do my mother's hair from time to time.

He was obviously astounded, during office errands for my father, praying bills, and following up payments around the city. But he was never my mother's helper. He was about constructing, hearing, in a grander house, he would have been promoted to the station of the host.

Devoted and loving

To everyone's surprise, he began courting a maid who was an acquaintance of Daning's. We knew of his devotion and hearing up her back years when she was ill with nursing sickness and hearing up her family issues when she came home from delivering their first baby.

My mother thought he was spoiling her. And that displeasure might have been passed on to him in the kitchen talk. Soon, he spoke to mother about his plans to set up a business. Many years after they left the house, he came to visit us on Christmas seasons. They had three girls in identical crocheted dresses, made by Salus, of course.

In my much smaller house, only female baby can stay in. But even with three roommates, I have had no counsel is less cruel to friends against running off with Joel, the part time driver. Among, who had driven for my father and then moved over to our household, fell in love with Maling and made her his wife and then fell in love with Maling and made her his mistress.

The extended network of our various households to talk, which forced him to leave his job in disgrace. Then Maling Lilia, a widow in her late 40s who needed and treated clothes, was enamored to have started seeing this long-married carpenter Maling Sara, although he came only to do rising work—painting and carpentry—in the house.

It was not the sweet, or my mother' loving and open spirit, or her house of many rooms and corners after all. Domestic love derives wherever trust and warmth exist in service. It is love like any other, without limits, without bounds.

A year of sensitive living

COMES AROUND for you, and I'm another complaining over bragging, just feeling strangely uneasy realizing I'm older than my president, so well-to-nearly all other presidents.

I'm older even than my Indian meditation guru and the new Archbishop of Manila, and, if I outlive Bernadet, possibly older than the next Pope, too.

I'm reminded of Dad in his 80s (although I'm not anywhere near) and seeing tonight still to be taken out to dine. He would look around and, seem enough, declare himself the oldest person in the restaurant. Indeed, people seemed to regard him with awe, even reverence, as if they understood that with old age comes God's blanket absolution and automatic sainthood upon death.

But some part couldn't help borrowing a look of mild shock—nicely without Dar slightest marital hope—as if his living, seeing presence was more news to them than would be his demise.

"You don't know how it feels to be the oldest on anywhere you go, kiddo," he'd say and point to anyone, before chuckling with an affection at the shock he gave.

I suppose that one—especially one who has achieved some degree of success, as did my father, redoubtered in five elections as congressman of Manila—would crowd in as quite incredibly, if not shock, having stayed around so long. Just about the same good luck as Ida Dixon's old age, a British actor wrote in his autobiography about the exact moment he felt he may have indeed overlived, and that was when someone came up to him and asked, "Weren't you David Niven?"

While these reasons not draw a good one, her who are older than I, I only pray I'd be able to laugh at myself and at life at its silly, as Dad and David did.

Dad took everything life dealt him in his stride, without question, without resentment. Old age, he said, is "the clearest evidence that God has a sense of humour." He left at 91 with good laughs to spare.

Dealing, as presumably most people do, is primarily that old age brings less and less endurable discomforts. I asked Dad often, "How are you feeling?" And somehow that was enough to get him started. How he'd smile, then slowly work himself to a giggle that would intensify to the point where he'd have his eyes squeezed tight to cut a few tears, his face red as a beet, his body convulsed with suppressed laughter.

Fresh joke

"But what's so funny?" I'd ask, and he'd get started again, and I'm using a fresh joke. When he had caught his breath he'd tell me it wasn't my question—but was hilarious; it was the answer.

"I can't remember feeling good—in years," he would manage to say, head bliss. Since he got old, Dad had attributed everything he felt or didn't feel to old age.

Just before cracking up again, he'd come to his punch line, "But who would want to exchange it for the alternative?"

For me, at any rate, nothing can provoke any morbid thoughts, not even not to have,

Chit Roces

NOT QUITE THERE

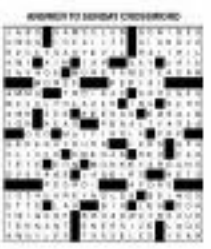
ing last years. Free from obligations, I'm living finally honestly me, doing only my heart's desire.

Even in matters of health, I feel blessed having undergone cataract confusion or regimen of any sort, except a self-imposed one, consisting mostly of exercise and abstention. And I still have far more good days than bad.

Challenges I don't submit. Indeed, I have lately become a risk-taker, believing one doesn't know what one has never had, or was meant not to have or keep in the first place. I prefer to fill my mind and life one day at a time with people and things that make me happy and leave no room for sadness or anger, which, I've told, can grow tumors or punch holes in one's troubled supply of time and energy. More precious than ever, it seems, my new supply I resolve to spend with people I love, and however come yet be startling from errors and heartbreaking sorrows.

I do believe our minds closes or even snaps for such pleasures, effectively extending our spans of a lifetime. I look at each new year as a new chance at self-renewal, and each new day as life's bonus, as small a reminder to live life more attentively.

ANSWERS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



The people who boosted my ego through the years

Minyong Ordoñez

GUT FEEL

I GOT my best counsel from friends who are fantastic individuals. They dished them out to me as ego boosters, banishing instantly my insecurities and skepticism.

Take, for example, a social diseuse called colossal mortality. In the mid-'90s, I was under the impression that admen in Madison Avenue, NY, had superior skills and practices than us locals or, Ayala Avenue and Vito Cruz agency-ites. During those times, I was an uninitiated and overworked creative director at Ace-Compton (now Saatchi and Saatchi).

Our American partners, as part of a technology transfer agreement, assigned us the quintessential Madison Avenue VP for creative. She was Connie Reid, cool, regal, calculating and fit-ish, every inch a New Yorker. Connie was the ideal creative guru, mentoring, nurturing and, when called for, bold and feisty in front of clients. She keeps a bottle of whiskey in her drawer, her 5:30 p.m. hobby.

Connie knew me as the guy who stayed working overnight because I had dozens of radio commercials to do with tight deadlines for recording and airing. One day I told Connie of my dream to work at Compton New York so that I could acquire up-to-date knowledge for Compton's ads.

She ignored my dream and answered me matter-of-factly, "Minyong, you won't learn anything in Compton," Connie said without mincing words. "They're the ones who should learn from you. At Compton, your copywriter is in charge only of writing copy for the parkings, and that's all he does. Your lead and headlines are 10 times more than a single copywriter in New York. They should be the ones learning from you!" End of my dream to work in New York? I walked out of Connie's room 12 feet tall, with some helium in space. A week later I got a raise. Connie told the president I deserved a raise.

Something similar happened in 1980. This time it was every 3 months, since of guys who got scholarships. [Do not of this league] for graduate studies in New York, Boston or Los Angeles, as some of the old-girls [or women-girls] who were sent by their parents to pursue master's degrees abroad.

Fancy titles

I envied them because they immediately landed high-paying positions with fancy titles, or if he's the son of the owner of the company, he was sure to inherit his father's presidency. It was presumed that they had some managerial, financial and business planning knowledge.

How I wished I had studied abroad, too. I told Tony Mercado, my business partner and chairperson of the agency, "Tony, I want to go to study abroad." He said, "Minyong, you've got to have a master's in marketing and advertising in the mecca of Filipinos. You're different from them. You can do what they can't do." Coming from Tony I felt guilty of undermining myself. Immediately, my envy was gone.

Tony is one of those rare individuals whose right brain (the imaginative and radical) and left brain (the logical and rational) both work like a well-oiled machine.

Tony and I took over a bankrupt advertising agency in 1977. Within a few years, we made that agency, which we bought for a song, Inc. 1 in size and revenue. He shared profits generously with all employees. Employee's morale was very high, and so was our pay.

Tony was a visionary and risk taker, coming with the spirit of entrepreneurship. He initiated many marketing consultancy projects that were ahead of their time. When we lost money in a bad investment, we merely laughed at ourselves silly.

I gave my being envious at guys who studied abroad was silly.

I had a chance to work in Bangkok in 1971. I was hired by a raging Thai agency called "Eh ads in Inc Income" Bermuda head for the simple reason that the agency had no real business to speak of. I went literally knocking on doors to get clients of jobs. I even knocked on the Assistant Consulate's door to get him to do advertising. I made one of them, only to discover that the client's investor was taken 86 for an 86-ing soldiers, not tourists. But the fee was a bargain. The Thai star country manager gave unreasonably big discounts. There were no rules.

My employer in Bangkok was a dark Thai gentleman named Elwin Prophet Pantyhoyn. He was properly educated in England, a culture evident in the Thai-classical dance and cockfighting dynasty discourses.

One late night, Elwin Prophet dropped by our office on Silom Road. He was surprised to see me still working [working overtime at 7p.m. ads was unheard]. I told him I was making a presentation for a new medicine account. "But you're due to visit your family in Manila," he insisted.

"I'm postponing my trip! I want to win this account. We need the business badly!" I insisted him.

"Yes, Minyong. Money is not important. Your family is." My jaw dropped, and I felt a sudden embarrassment. Elwin Prophet was cool. He silenced me real fine, the dignity of men who shun greed.

From Prophet, I learned to be cool. The need to detach ourselves from pressure sometimes has a bigger value than saving [someone] and [illegible]. Love for the family is not [illegible].

E-mail: [illegible]@gmail.com

I told Connie of my dream to work at Compton New York. 'Minyong, you won't learn anything,' she said. 'They're the ones who should learn from you'

Giving the gift. . .

From page B3

2. Amazon Kindle

Perfect for: The bookworm.

How to set it up: Fill the Kindle with books from their favorite authors, as well as some new titles you think they'll like. This will make waiting at the doctor's clinic more bearable. Teach them how to increase the font size, bookmark the page where they stopped reading and highlight passages they want to share. The latest Kindle models can also accommodate fun games like crosswords and word search you can install when they need to take a reading break. You can even set up the Kindle to receive daily deliveries of the latest issue of the Inquirer so they can stay up to date on the latest news.

Where to buy: Amazon.com (http://www.amazon.com)

3. iPod

Perfect for: The movie buff or the game-addicted senior.

How to set it up: Install apps you think your mom or dad will enjoy, like games (Mahjong, Poker, Plants vs. Zombies, Farmville). Get them subscriptions to their favorite magazines and install favorite books and movies.

Where to buy: Apple resellers like Power Mac Center, Digital Hub and Switch

4. Samsung Galaxy S2

Perfect for: your info-hita who's always out of the house

How to set it up: Install apps that they'll find useful, like the Bible (for prayer meetings) and Wikipedia (for looking up facts and other information). The smartphone's compact format will be easy to bring around for the golf-starting senior in your life.

Where to buy: Samsung dealers and resellers

5. A digital camera

Perfect for: the chatterbug who loves to brag about his/her "apos."

How to set it up: Just spend a day teaching your mom/dad how to take photos, record videos and load content into the computer.

Where to buy: Most appliance stores carry a wide array of digital cameras.

6. A digital picture frame

Perfect for: the UK-based grandma/grandpa who loves to show friends pictures of his/her kids and grandkids.

How to set it up: Fill up a memory card with photos from trips, family gatherings and candid moments and plug it into the digital picture frame.

Where to buy: Appliance stores.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Emerie G. Velarde

INSIDE
Few stars turn up for MMFF awards program /F1

Kristen Stewart, Angelina Jolie–quotables in 2011

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales

(Conclusion)

LOS ANGELES—Happy New Year! As we ring in 2012, we look back on our most memorable 2011 interviews one last time.

Angelina Jolie

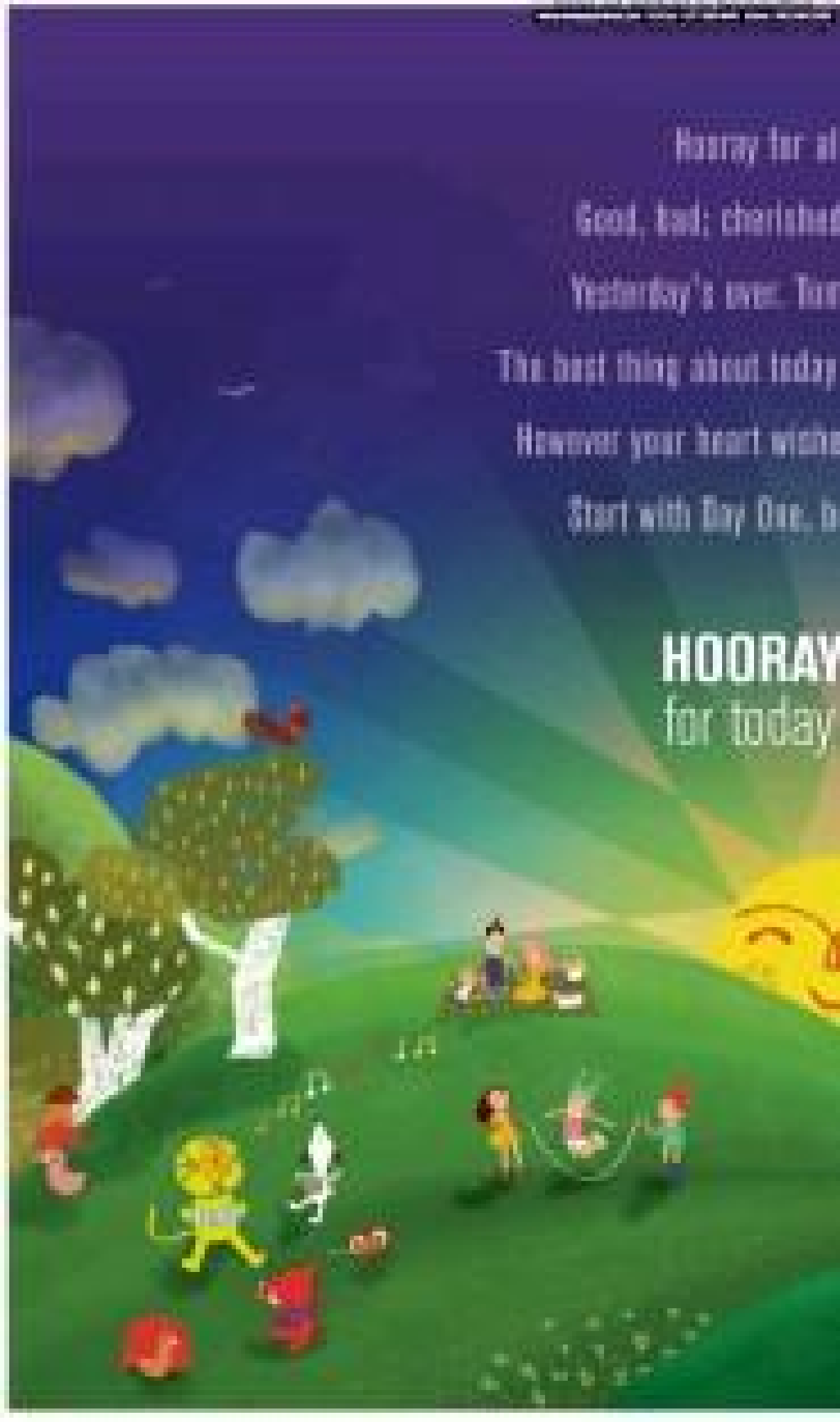
Being an ambassador to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees transformed her. "When I first went to a war zone, I was forever changed. I will never be self-absorbed or live again. I will never take for granted that I know where my family is, that I have enough food to feed my children and that they are safe. I will never think of those other things that you see people get stressed about, especially in this town where we fill our mind with things that are simply not important to life. So I am very grateful that years ago, I was put in the middle of a conflict zone where I came face to face with what is really happening in the world. So I cherish my family—they're everything to me.

"I'm just trying to be a good person and learn about all the aspects of life. Certainly, this Hollywood aspect, we live in that a little bit but that is not our life. I try to give myself education and travel. I'm giving my children that education. I make up first and foremost as a mom.

MOVIES 11

NEW YEAR'S BEST DEAL
ROOM PROMO for as low as P1,650++ per person on twin sharing

• INCLUSIONS:
• Full Buffet Breakfast
• Use of Outdoor's Pool & Gym
• Free WiFi and Chic Cafe
NO SERVICE CHARGE
City Garden Hotel
Makati
For reservations please call: 899-1111
E-mail: makati@citygardenhotels.com
For Best Deals go to citygardenhotels.com


Hooray for al
Good, bad; cherished
Yesterday's over. Tur
The best thing about today
However your heart wishe
Start with Day One, b
HOORAY
for today

things past.
or forgotten at last.
orrow's yet to begin.
is it's here for you to win.
s this year to be, will be.
allow and you'll see!

ANGELINA Jolie: "I woke up first and for women as a mom."

PATRICIA Clarkson: "I got to see Jordan Timberlake naked."

JESSICA Chastain: "Nudity is something you're uncomfortable doing."

ELLENN Close: "I think women in power will always be problematic for men."

Kristen Stewart, Angelina Jolie...

From page E1

But my motherhood is also connected to other countries, so it's part of my life. I love being an actor. I appreciate and have fun with all the blessings I've gotten from being able to be a part of it. But it's a very small part of what is happening around the world. So that perspective has never been lost on me."

Mickey Rourke

Is the use of steroids widespread in Hollywood? "I don't give a f— about Hollywood. Whoops. I was fighting Bernd Eichinger, his agent, that dropped out from the old days. You start to lose testosterone in your body at a certain age. I don't do it for body-building purposes. It's chosen, under a doctor's supervision, to add a little testosterone in my program, then that's my decision. I don't recommend it for everybody. But listen, if my doctor says it's not going to hurt me and it is well to help my energy and temperament, and my s— will get a little harder sometimes..."

His fears: "That there's no heaven. If this is it, it's s—. There's got to be a better place to go after all the bulls—t. I hope there's a good place, a big disco up there."

Christian Bale

He announced that "The Dark Knight" could be his last appearance in the masked vigilante: "I wrapped a few days ago on that and for the last time I'm taking that cowl (Batman hood) off. I believe that the whole production wrapped — as it's all done. It's anything's finished. It's me and Chris [Nolan]... that will be the end of that Batman era."

Patricia Clarkson

One of the actress's 56 scintillating actresses, coquettish and blessed with the charm of a Southern woman, on having to "Easy A": "I got to see Justin Timberlake naked. And you know what I mean..."

Kathy Bates

She wrote to be as sexually free in her words, as Helen Mirren is: "Yes, hopefully, I still have time." Characters that she's dreaming of playing? "All of the roles that

TILDA Swinton: "No more dresses, that's it."

Meryl Streep played:

On working with director Woody Allen: "I've had the darkest honor of being in his least gruesome film, 'Shadows and Fog,' and his greatest gruesome film, 'Midnight in Paris.' I didn't enjoy working with him in 'Shadows.' I was surprised that he invited me to be in 'Midnight.' He was a different person when I worked with him. Now, he is much more personable, open and warm."

Ellen Barkin

On her nose: "I've been asked many times how I broke my nose (that she answers to now). The is just my nose. I guess I could have fixed my nose. I declare to say that my working-class parents did offer me a nose job when I was about 16. I said, 'No, my nose looks just like yours. Why wouldn't I want it?' I have to make the best of it and make it work for me in some way. I don't think I was able to fashion and I was well into my 30s."

Kristen Stewart

Kristen was painfully shy and awkward in our first few interviews. But now she has remarkably grown into a very articulate woman. She's one of a few actors who really weighs her answers. Kristen carefully considers the words she says because she means them. Sometimes, she appears somewhat nervous, but that's just who she is.

She does not make long-range plans: "I'm not the type of person who sits at dinners and mugs on camera! At most we're not doing that. There's no way for you to know what you're going to love. I don't understand that inevitably, I've gotten unexpectedly lucky. The things that have spoken to me, like 'Twilight' and 'Snow White and the Huntsman,' could have been made for $30 bucks. I would have done it, both of them. I'm led by other things rather than how high the profile of a movie. That means nothing to me. Whatever happens, happens. Hopefully, I stay in a position where I can do things that provoke me."

Glenn Close

On equality in Hollywood: "Men still make more money than women in our profession unless they are huge stars, like Julia Roberts when she was a big star, and Angelina Jolie. I was at the Parisian Most (recently) Women Awards. That was wonderful, because I was in a room full of incredibly powerful women. I was the only actress there (laughing). I was very honored to be there, but it has been a long journey for women. I think women in power will always be problematic for men."

Tilda Swinton

The fashion icon, at the ripe old age of her birth era: "I remember when I was about 3 years old, being put in a very beautiful party dress and running to the ingrid room. I have three brothers, two of whom are older than me. They kept me right. I remember my elder brother saying, 'You look pretty...' I was about six and a half, pride until he added, '...horrible.' I thought, OK no more dresses, that's it."

Jessica Chastain

On doing nude scenes, including in "Salmo," a 2009 indie film that won her a third Actress trophy from the Seattle International Film Festival: "When I saw all the female screenwriters whose I respect doing nudity I was like, 'Oh...it's no problem. You, I still get embarrassed doing it. I'm naked in 'Wet on Cloudy.' A few days before doing that scene, I was picking fights with people. So one understands what happens. I was just acting out. Nudity is something you're uncomfortable doing. But...I feel like it's my job as an actor to be a more evolved person, to look at that fear in the face and say, 'Well, I have to rise up and meet this.'"

E-mail the columnist at evepajic.5569@yahoo.com. Follow this at http://twitter.com/inquirerbuzz.

KATHY Bates on the characters she dreams of playing: "All the roles Meryl Streep played."

MICKEY Rourke on his greatest fear: "That there's no heaven."

CHRISTIAN Bale: "I wrapped a few days ago on that and for the last time I'm taking that cowl [Batman hood] off."

ELLEN Barkin: "I've been asked many times how I broke my nose when the answer is mine."

MMFF 2011 MOST AWARDED MOVIE
BEST PICTURE
Gutpane Villegas Cultural Award * Best Director * Best Supporting Actor
Best Screenplay * Best Cinematography * Best Editing * Best Production Design
Best Sound Editing * Best Musical Score * Best Original Theme Song
GRADED A BY THE CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD
JEORGE ESTREGAN CARLA ABELLANA
MANILA KINGPIN
The ASIONG SALONGA Story
NOW SHOWING
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE 37th METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2011

ENTERTAINMENT

Few stars turn up for MMFF awards

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Richard Reyes

NORME Tarnate, mother of child star Buboy Villar, cried when she was not allowed into the Newport Performing Arts Theater of Resorts World in Pasay City on Wednesday night.

Her son, nominated as Best Child Performer for "Bwakaw 2" in the 37th Metro Manila Film Festival, was already inside the 1,200-seat theater when ushers decided to lock the doors five minutes before the program started.

Norme was one of 50 people who had tickets but were not able to enter the venue. The ushers said the theater, on the hotel's third floor, was packed and could collapse.

"One of the ushers said 2,000 people were already inside. This means the theater is over capacity," Norme said.

"ASKING" team ecstatic for bagging 11 awards

JOHN Regala and Philip Salvador

GAD VALENCIANO and LOU Caballero in a dance number to honor her dad, Lito Caballo.

But the venue was packed, because some metro mayors' men had asked for more tickets than they were allotted

MMFF issued more tickets than the venue could hold," an observer noted. The Metro Manila Development Authority is the head of the annual fete.

A source explained: "The offices of some city mayors had requested more tickets than they were allotted."

But later on, Norme and some members of the print media, were allowed to go in.

The four-hour ceremony, hosted by Ai Ai de las Alas, Richard Gomez and John Estrada, began at 5 p.m., two hours later than announced. (It will be aired today on ABS-CBN's "Sunday's Best.")

Joey Marquez, Robert Seña, Boots Anson-Roa, Gorgy Rula and Tirso Cruz III received the seven film execs in song. Eric Quizon, Gab Valenciano, the Sexbomb Girls and Sissy Reyes paid tribute to the late dancer-choreographer Lito Caballo in a production number featured half-way through the show.

In the Best guy, Papa Fernandez sang a medley of the best movie theme songs with the Philippine Symphonic Chorale.

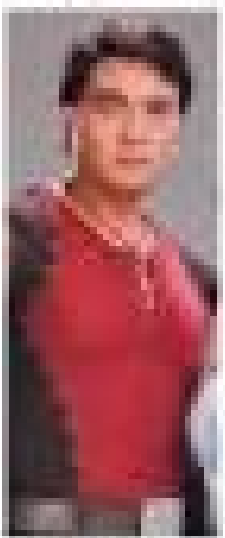
Among the few

The celebrity gangs were conspicuously few. Spotted among the few were real-life couple Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo, Maria Isabel Lopez and daughter Mara, Eugene Domingo, Nikki Valdez, JC Parker, Baron Geisler, Boots Anson-Roa, Gerald Monroe

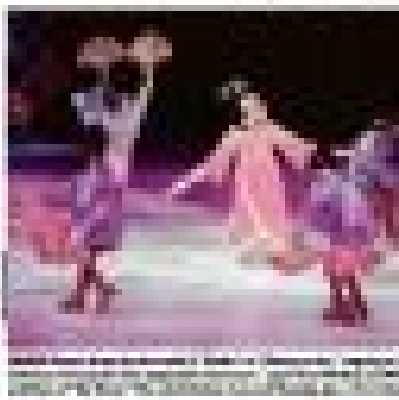
FOR STORY, P2

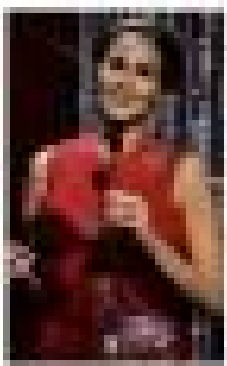
Three male stars 'discover' fountain of youth

We thank Dong and Usher for working hard to sculpt their bodies to suit the dresses who they continue to play without embarrassing themselves and their younger leading ladies

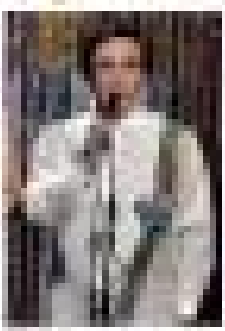


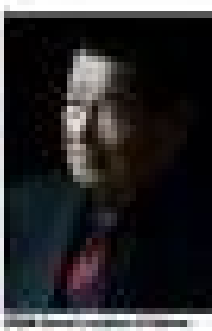
Mariel: Still no baby

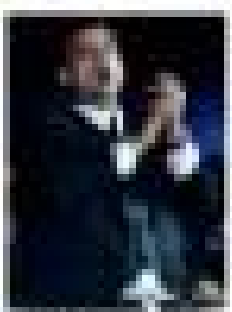


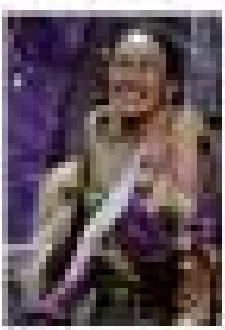


Few stars turn up for MMFF awards









plans

OPENS JANUARY 8

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CINEMA

IMAX

Meet Pinay cook who won NY acting trophy

Flamenco dancer and ex-Mutya runner-up is 'first course' point person for Spago in Beverly Hills

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SHE DRESS and dances, stews and stomps, to compare.

Unknown to many across Lizz Dino is a professional flamenco dancer and none works in this cook for famed chef Wolfgang Puck's resto, Spago, in Beverly Hills. She's assigned to the Garde Manger line, whipping up "the first course from cold and hot appetizers, to soups and salads."

Plus, the former Mutya ng Pilipinas runner-up also serves as spokesperson for Miss Philippines USA.

Lone citation

Dino, who won the lone "achievement in acting" citation at the International Film Festival Manhattan for Bill Fredo's 2009 indie drama, "Compound," last November, juggles her tool- and real life roles effortlessly.

For instance, after parroting at the Manhattan fest, she went straight to the airport, caught a red-eye flight back to Los Angeles and drove back to her work at Spago the following day.

Fred's life in America is a minefield, she told Inquirer in an e-mail interview. "There was no time to relish my award."

Part it bit her—most probably while shopping or peeling in the kitchen or surfing on Facebook—that winning in New York was "such a great validation."

When she left for the United States to get married in 2008, the local indie scene was well on its way to global prominence. "I'm a big advocate of the indie movement. The award wasn't just for me, but for our local filmmakers who relentlessly aspire to make movies they believe in... because we Filipinos have lots of stories to tell and they need to be heard."

Her stress acting, but had the chance to appear in two films: Ramon Bautista's "Sinful: Sex and Cannon" in 2006 and "In Nomine Matris (In the Name of the Mother)," her reunion movie with Fredo, which will be released this year.

In "Sinful," she plays a deformed Vino Lady to "Kamasutra" alo portrays a Burlesque dancer cum-lesbian-sex lover. She has proudly sat-ed herself as "Will's muse."

She explained: "Not to be biased, but Bill is every actor's dream director because of his ability to give you freedom to explore your character, while subtly guiding you to marry your experimentation with his own vision."

Near-perfect

Fredo describes her as a near-perfect collaborator, too: "Liza adapts. She's an animal on the set. You can give her any challenge and she will do it with gusto. She inspires me to do well because she is one of those artists who give 100 percent on and off the set."

Its reconciled that, for "In Nomine," he asked her to take an emotionally charged climatic scene with Riley Romero take 30 times. "But she delivered the same high level of intensity with each take."

She relaxed, with amusement. "I've been raped and battered in Will's films. I've been a manipulative bitch, an abused wife, a disturbed mother. But I still look forward to working with him because of the things I discover about myself with each new role."

In "Nomine," she plays a normal woman, somewhat. "I had three months of rigorous training with 16 other dancers before the rainstorm started grinding," she recounted. "The dance sequences were choreographed by world-renowned flamenco dancer Clara Ramona."

It was a thrill for her, she said, because it gave her the chance to showcase another passion, flamenco. "Imagine psychologist as close with stomping feet, flamenco chapitas, to 'Black cinnamon," she embraced.

Next stop for Fredo and Bibi is an experimental film called "Kisses in Vain." The actress related: "It's all improvisational. We shot all over New York—in the subway stations and Central Park. People were staring because I was supposed to be a deaf-mighty mother screaming hysterically for her lost child."

It was a collaboration with Fredo and cinematographer Sherwin Mendiola. It could've been just another working day for New Yorkers, but not for Lizz, who clearly enjoys it.

LIZZ Dino, right, stirs flamenco master Clara Ramona

GROWING UP her Manhattan hat (Kisses with "Compound" director Will Fredo. Lizz is happy to be the indie filmmaker's muse, "because of the new things I discover about myself with each role."

Ako, si *(sabihin ang pangalan)* ay nangangako
na simula ngayong 2012,
pakikinggan ko ang sinasabi ng puso ko.
Gagawa ng sariling desisyon
ayon sa kapakanan
at ikabubuti ng aking pamilya.

Di magpapadala sa sinasabi ng iba.
Paninindigan ang sariling paniniwala.

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- Past experience of working within a shared services organization

Global HR Project Planning Specialist

- At least 4 years experience working with team leads in managing planning, resourcing and reporting of HR project portfolios
- Past experience in project management, strong financial planning and project accounting capabilities
- Multi-lingual capabilities is an advantage (French, Dutch, Swedish, Polish, German, Hindi, Portuguese, Norwegian, Danish)

HR Specialist for HR Shared Services

- At least 1-2 years of working experience in different facets of HR or HR Shared Services
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- Experience in transaction and database management

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- Oracle HRMS implementation, design and support experience
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- Significant technical competence in Excel, Oracle and database development, management and experience with data analysis. Experience of working in teams and in a CGE model preferred
- Strong communication skills, excellent written and spoken English and ideally command in French

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Completed application forms should be sent to info@britishcouncil.org.ph indicating subject reference number. For applicants without access to this internet application, please call the Vacancies Hotline Council, 9th Floor Taipan Place, F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City. Any further documentation need not attached. Candidates who send incomplete application for be e-mail December will not be considered. Interviewing materials after the closing date will not be accepted. Due to the volume of applications, further enquiries will not be entertained. Only shortlisted candidates for interview only. Enquiries for information on the status of applications will not be entertained.

Closing date: 10AM on 03 January 2013

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Editor Jason Francis M. Rodrecillo

That the waiters won't spit on your food, and other New Year's Wishes

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

IF THEY WERE ALL the world were compiled in a Word or Excel document, how many adjectives are needed? Don't ask me... I don't have a calculator. Thinking is another thing nothing to make a wish some year is new conversation. Doing the opposite of what it takes to realize a wish is counterproductive.

The most common wish is perhaps that the good old days were here. In the good old days, we were No. 2 to Japan in Asia. The Baby Boomers know this, but the Gen Xers and Gen Yers think we were always catching up with our Asian neighbors that overtake us one by one — hopefully not until there's none. There was no shortage our business was crept as a world economy, we will never regain that past glory forever you; we slide in global competitiveness. Yet we seem seem to be where we are or going.

Outrage

Sometimes, I have myself. There are moments, during my birthday and at yearenders, when I wonder if I am one of the very few guys who are fed up with what's happening. Where is the outrage, the righteous indignation that people like P. Bondi exist, Butch Joaquin or Sister Aquino have as Filipinos?

And Bible Belter quotes (maybe InAs. Quipio de Manila) in his mom "Are we not confusing timidity for humility and making a virtue of what may be the worst of our vices? Is not our vaunted easy charity to small sins the harbinger to most brash if we are ever to inherit the earth and be free, independent, prosperous? The small taste evil begets to the big. Alfonso Hinduz said that some people are born victims of mediocrity. He came to the Philippines and found here as the 'best original' of people. Is there not a relation between his two terms? Originality requires daring; the daring to destroy the obsolete, to annihilate the petty. It's cold comfort to think we haven't developed that taste and therefore mediocrity."

Many Aquino wrote in 1903 in the Solidarity Quarterly Journal, "Indeed, the Philippines is a land of traumatic contrasts. How to a land in which color are spectacularly rich, while the masses remain abjectly poor. Gleaming suburbs clashes with the squalor of the slums. Here is a land where freedom and its blessings are a reality for a minority and an illusion for the many, there is a land constructed on democracy but run by an entrenched plutocracy. How, too, are a people whose ambitions run high, less educate fulfillment is low and mainly restricted to the self-perpetuating elite. How is a land of privilege and task, but mired in an archaic system of values? Here is a people knowledge of the contemporary Filipino is well-aware." Twenty-six years later, I still agree with Nony.

I thank Jose wrote "Why the are trash" and picked on "the lit the other." I once read in newspaper. " If our limitations of the streets "fall exceedingly low in expectations, can we really say that we are a public tightly and intelligently informed?"

As we tackle today, we get a gang of clueless, perhaps graft-skimming so-called leaders in government, private offices, and large multinationals stealing blind a nation of consumers that can hardly make both ends meet. Two weeks after a super typhoon, we can't even have a decent count of the dead or missing, much less clean up the mess. But instead of getting mad, we keep reassuring ourselves that everything's all right, even as we entertain ourselves with wacky, often pathetic daytrick and curse together at the bush idiot or alien system and pretend that we will be better without any effort at all.

HR wishes

I get a few HR. Highly unadult wishes for the coming 2012.

• That the Philippines will rise in the worst pole of global competitiveness.

• That Filipinos become more self-reliant and realize that only we can help ourselves.

• That national news bigwigs without columnists or talk-chatter exists.

Slogans and small stuff

See, I have a short list of wish es. Our president be misplaced humility bordering on winning smallness and small-stuff, based not solutions to basic problems requiring surgery, and self-deluding appointments that really doing's going to be all right... flimsy and many more make me uncomfortable. Contrary to my optimistic nature, here is a random rundown of what could do and my three simple wishes:

• We are a nation of contractors, not producers

• We self-insure so much other than to other countries

• We export low-value items (humans that need vast lands and thousands of people to grow for ours (beer member) and import high value items (motorcycles that are assembled by schools when I think of "assembly").

• We spend more than we earn , we specialize in deficit budgeting in government and persons

• Our leaders cannot look beyond six years; some legislators are even more myopic and cannot move on to matters that on legislations for a better tomorrow

• Some government executives focus more on degamming than on basics to create more value for the people and the country

• We have 100 times more senate spots than Singapore, Hong Kong and Macau combined, but each has 20 times more tourists. Tourists is not about having the most rooms spots or most existing slogan. Thailand is still "Amazing Thailand" before and after Thaksin or the tsunami. Malaysia is still "Truly Asia" long after Mahathir. Let's first fix the infrastructure and the system that will enable tourism; let's not make the slogan and much stuff our legacy.

• We have one of the worst new airports in the world—enough said

• We have no integrated system to make tourists living in more tourists

• Our taxi drivers tend to milk foreign and domestic tourists; on a scamp that you can't get a taxi if you're going to too near or too far

• Our travel agencies scamp foreign visitors' sightseeing of great scenic spots in expensive tour packages, in these archipelagos is three days, with one guarantee that the tourists will have connecting flights, great accommodations, or helpful guides

• It takes 45 hours to fix some, and you are not sure to reach a connecting flight

• Tourists who drive will get lost without proper road signs (somebody got lost from Makati commercial center to Fort Bonifacio because there's no sign to Fort Sant, only C-5)

• Our media specializes in self-flagellation (like I'm doing now, except that this is a make up call)

• Kindergarten Kansas ordifers can sing the Lupang Hinirang better than our grandchildren, and singing the Anthem is the closest to patriotism

• Former presidents still have to self-incite or write, instead of making more innovative lesson plans

• Experienced technicians leave the country as OFW's in groups of 3,000 daily, leaving us with more untrained manpower

• The rich and powerbrokers have donation boxes in their lobby where people could drop us, nice clothes or unused goods for Sending victims

• Government officials and celebrities still pose while distributing goodies for calamity victims. Only the ministers to the life in aid of disease or network outings

• Workers believe that they are victims and must unroll protection. Perhaps they need protection against unscrupulous event shops. Against government policies that will be detrimental to their welfare and other Thaksin or the tsunami. Philippines is still "Truly Asia" long after Mahathir. Let's first fix the infrastructure and the system that will enable tourism; let's not make the slogan and much stuff our legacy.

• We have one of the worst new airports in the world—enough said

• We have no integrated system to make tourists living in more tourists

• Our taxi drivers tend to milk foreign and domestic tourists; on a scamp that you can't get a taxi if you're going

World Health Organization

Western Pacific Region

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Office of the WHO Representative to the Philippines is in urgent need of the following:

1) COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (Special Services Agreement)

To assist in managing the effectiveness of WHO technical assistance by supporting the country office, the Department of Health and other counterparts, primarily in advocacy efforts for the appropriate and effective dissemination of WHO/DOH key programmes and use for nationwide analysis, such as foundations for Philhealth, Kalayaan and Islanders Essential Interventions and Mandate Fund, Universal Child Immunization and Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Strategy.

General Description of Work: The candidate is expected to conceive and implement communication programs that promote the basic national policies, social and economic realities of his role to support public health objectives. Specifically, he/she will:

- Develop and implement a communication and advocacy plan for WHO CO's engagement that can be collaborate scale up.
- Provide technical support and other WHO and DOH technical teams as well as other key stakeholders in implementing the advocacy and communication plan.
- Help disseminate relevant DOH policy and technical issues from WHO supported public health initiatives made in partnership with the Department of Health and WHO.
- Manage the procurement, selection and supervision of creative communication services (e.g. graphic design, layout, for production of IEC materials.

Qualifications: At least 5 years work in communication or related fields. Experience in the health sector, international development organizations an advantage. Degree in journalism/communications/marketing. Effective writing skills. Competent in coordinating and editing. Familiar with basic IT software and social media applications.

Contract Duration: Initial contract is for six months.

Send your resume to: Dr Rolando Dadole, Technical Officer, e-mail address: dadolerol@wpro.who.int

Deadline: 15 January 2012

2) PROJECT COORDINATOR for KDPH project in Palawan (Special Services Agreement)

Technical and administrative coordination and assistance on the KDPH (Korea Foundation for International Health Care) project in Palawan, including the following: (1) coordination with the provincial health office and other counterparts; and providing capacity of health personnel in implementing health centers; provincial health office; regional and DOH and national level.

General Description of Work: Under the supervision of the Medical Officer III (Unit TB and the WHO Representative at the Philippines, the incumbent shall perform the following: (1) coordination with the Provincial Governor of Palawan and other counterparts; (2) coordination with the Provincial Health Office and Rural Health Units; (3) coordination with the Provincial Hospital and other key stakeholders.

- Assist in implementing the KDPH Palawan project that includes formulating project work plan, updating calendar of health activities including monitoring visits and for progress reports from RHU/BHS/HCs, and conducting monitoring and evaluating activities.
- Provide technical support for development, dissemination and orientation of project guidelines and operational guidelines for the project.
- Responsible for ensuring the collection, consolidation and analysis of data and submission of reports.
- Coordinate with the concerned provincial, municipal and barangay officials in the implementation of the project including visits and liaison governments, regional and provincial health counterparts. He will maintain the close and effective relations with
- Undertake other tasks assigned by the Medical Officer III, WR and/or the WHO Representative with the Local Area Co-ordinators.

Qualifications: Education: Degree in medicine preferably with postgraduate degree in preventive medicine and experience in Public Health. Experience: Minimum of 5 years experience in developing TB projects, studies, studies, studies, studies with the NTP and local of the public health care system, including hospitals. Preferably has good working relationship with the NTP, NTR, Region III, Palayan Provincial Health Office and municipal/city health offices in the Palayan and other key stakeholders. Preferably experienced in conducting training, and KDPH training. Language: Excellent command of English, including in oral and written forms. Computer: Knowledge of word and extent Outlook and the most language. Computer applications: excellent communication skills.

Contract Duration: 10 months

Send your resume to: Dr Ricardo Lee, Medical Officer, e-mail address: leeric@wpro.who.int jaimeleo@wpro.who.int

Deadline: 15 January 2012

3) Training on Practical Vector Surveillance and Control (FINANCE PARTNER)

The WHO/WPR, component of the Mid-Back Malaria project (MMP) aims to strengthen quality of vector control operations through the conception of integrated vector management for improved control of malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases. Regional teams of trainers will be established in each of the 6 countries and will train a larger cadre of trainers who will in turn train the field staff. The initial training, they will provide regularly building activities in commonly and sustainability teams using local resources. Joint operational coordination and epidemiology to reduce dependence on a single intervention disease control strategy. Related to this, WHO/Philippines is planning to conduct training on Integrated Vector Management (IVM) in Malaria Control, Surveillance and Response in Southern Luzon for malaria vector control, 10 regional DOC centers.

Short description of work: The project aims to develop the capacity of regional trainers and improve coordination in vector surveillance and control of malaria, dengue and Lymphatic filariasis. The training will bring together a multidisciplinary team of entomologists, malariologists, vector control officers, environmental health officers, and other relevant staff to strengthen skills, knowledge and response in regional vector borne or disease coordination. Areas to be covered are vector surveillance, identification, epidemiology and vector control methods, insecticide resistance detection, monitoring and evaluation, supervision, outbreak and emergency response to dengue and malaria outbreaks.

A training curriculum based on WHO guidelines and adapted to the local situation for DOH and CHD vector and environment teams will be used. Travel will be two WHO consultants: Two consultants shall collaborate with the Regional, provincial and municipality health officers to organize participants with concurrence, including a medical technologist assistant.

Qualifications: The WHO consultants must have extensive experience in vector control. He must be experienced in operational disease control, epidemiology, vector control methods, insecticide resistance, training of trainers, data management, monitoring and evaluation, public relations and integrated vector management. The consultant must have good working relationship with the concerned health officials in the Philippines. Must be fluent in English and Filipino, both oral and written.

Please submit your expression of interest (EOI) to the undersigned for specific duties together with organizational profile on or before 15 January 2012 to Dr Regie Maad to rmaad@wpro.who.int and to Dr Jeffrey Ki to kiz@wpro.who.int

Email address is mandatory. Terms of Reference will be sent by email to interested parties upon submission of EOI and organizational profile.

4) Assessment and Roadmap Preparation (FIRM)

Title: Formulation of a National Roadmap on Health Care Waste Management

Short description of scope of work: Conduct a survey on health care waste management (HCWM) practices in selected hospitals and other health facilities in each of the 17 regions; assessment of HCWM practices and the extent to which WHO/DOH guidelines are followed; and the HCWM roadmap; and draft DOH implementation order for issuance for comment.

Short description of qualifications: The team leader should have a doctorate degree in environmental science management or health sciences and a minimum of 10 years professional experience related to healthcare waste management or research degree in environmental science/management/health sciences or a close.

Duration: 6 months

Send your expression of interest: Engr Rochael B. Alagbay, Technical Officer, WHO, at: alagbayro@wpro.who.int

Deadline of submission: 15 January 2012

5) Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework for Outpatient Benefit Package for Medicines (INDIVIDUAL)

Title: Technical consultancy to design a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework

Short description of scope of work: to assist PhilHealth in developing a M&E framework for the implementation of the outpatient benefit package for medicines. The TA will collect and synthesize existing experience and data available in DOH and in other settings to come up with an assessment of the existing package benefit design as well as assumptions used for a review list of medicines and the cost of the package to be covered by the PhilHealth Outpatient Benefit Package for Medicines.

Short description of qualifications: At least 10 years experience in the health sector, very good knowledge of the pharmaceutical sector and in-depth knowledge of the Philippine health system, desirable experience with the private sector.

Duration: 3 months

Send your resume/expression of interest: Catherine Gaspar, Technical Officer/HPS, at cbgaspar@wpro.who.int

Deadline of submission: 15 January 2012

WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

CRS Philippine Program is seeking experienced and dynamic individuals with the following general qualifications:

- Excellent communication and writing skills in English, especially report writing.
- Experience working as part of a multi-disciplinary technical team.
- Skills: Active listening; analytic learning; complex problem solving; critical thinking; service orientation; systems evaluation; judgment and decision making; monitoring.
- Technology: Microsoft Office 2003/2007
- Knowledge: Grants management and donor regulations

TRANSITIONAL SHELTER COORDINATOR – EMERGENCY (CAGAYAN DE ORO)

The Transitional Shelter Coordinator will lead a team of CRS short-term staff in the implementation of a transitional shelter construction program. This will require adopting a standard shelter design using locally available materials, piloting, adjusting based on results of the pilot and construction to the rest of the intended beneficiaries. The Transitional Shelter Coordinator will build the capacity of the partner to implement transitional shelter projects. Project duration is six (6) months.

- Bachelor's degree in Social Science and other related field. Master's degree or relevant field an advantage.
- Minimum of 5 years experience in construction, emergency experience preferred.
- Proven ability to provide technical assistance to partners in the implementation of the shelter program.
- Strong communications capability to build good inter-personal relationship with partners and other key players including diocesan heads (bishops), social action directors), government officials at regional, provincial and local levels.
- Experience in project planning, use of M&E methods, and reporting.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) AND COMMUNITY CLEANUP COORDINATOR – EMERGENCY (CAGAYAN DE ORO)

The position will provide technical support and direction to partners in the implementation of the WASH response including advising on water trucking and water storage. The position will also lead a team of CRS short-term staff in designing a community cleanup program using cash for work to support local livelihood restoration. Project duration is six (6) months.

- Bachelor's degree in Civil/Mechanical Engineering, Social Science or water related field. Master's degree in relevant field an advantage.
- Minimum of 5 years experience in WASH programs and program management, with at least one (1) year in emergency WASH
- Proven ability in organizing and facilitating WASH training activities and materials with partner staff and community volunteers.
- Ability to organize and facilitate cash for work training activities and materials with partner staff and community volunteers.
- Strong communication capability to build good inter-personal relationship with partners and other key players including diocesan heads (bishops), social action directors), government officials at regional, provincial and local levels.
- Experience in project planning, use of M&E methods, and reporting.

SHORT-TERM CONSULTING ENGINEER

The consulting Engineer will provide technical support in designing a shelter using low cost locally available materials and to manage a small pilot of a few shelters to test models and costs. Following the pilot, the consulting engineer will make recommendations for scaling up the program approach. Project duration is one (1) month.

- Licensed Civil Engineer with a strong background in structural engineering.
- At least five (5) years of practical experience in construction and engineering.
- Proven ability in providing technical assistance in designing transitional shelter that meets Sphere standards for size, acceptability, type of materials while being attentive to cost.
- Must be able to assess the capacity of suppliers to maintain supply and deliver construction materials to beneficiaries and appropriate number of labor days for skilled/unskilled groups to construct shelter.

Interested candidates should send their curriculum vitae and cover letter, in English before JANUARY 15, 2012 to: PH_HR@global.crs.org

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Senior Management and Technical Specialist

Chemonics seeks a senior management and finance/controller (National technical specialist for the anticipated five-year USAID-funded Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries Program (ECO-FISH) in the Philippines. The program seeks to conserve biodiversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in identified marine key biodiversity areas using ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management as a cornerstone of improving social, economic and environmental benefits. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world. Responsibilities include:

- Provide technical direction and program leadership support.
- Supervise and manage technical staff and project subcontractors and vendors.
- Collaborate to co-create and implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management framework and scaled, resource management plans for target marine ecosystems.
- Serve as key liaison with USAID, government counterparts, and local partners.

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in marine science, agriculture/fishery, community development, management, public administration or comparable technical fields.
- Minimum 10 years of senior technical level experience in developing and implementing fisheries/coastal resource management programs in the Philippines.
- Experience designing, implementing, and managing large donor-funded projects in the Philippines; USAID experience preferred.
- Demonstrated success engaging with the Government of the Philippines and its counterparts.
- Experience in monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge sharing.
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Proficiency in English required.

Application Instructions: Send electronic submissions to ECOFISHchemonics@gmail.com by January 9th, 2012. Send cover letter, resume and a list of three references. Finalists will be contacted.

Sustainable Financing Specialist

Chemonics seeks a sustainable financing specialist for the upcoming five-year USAID-funded Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries Program (ECO-FISH) in the Philippines. The program seeks to conserve biodiversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in identified marine key biodiversity areas using ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management as a cornerstone of improving social, economic and environmental benefits. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world. Responsibilities include:

- Identify existing sensustainable partnerships between the private sector and local government entities.
- Provide technical assistance to develop and enhance all stages for private sector adoption of long-term integrated fisheries management practices.
- Serve as a key liaison to public sector counterparts.

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in economics or relevant technical field.
- Minimum 10 years of sustainable financing and public private partnership experience, specifically demonstrated knowledge of identifying and facilitating partnerships between the private sector and government entities in the Philippines.
- Experience working with USAID or other donor organizations.
- Demonstrated success engaging with the Government of the Philippines and its counterparts.
- Familiarity with marine and coastal resource management and compliance in the Philippines.
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Proficiency in English required.

Application Instructions: Send electronic submissions to ECOFISHchemonics@gmail.com by January 9th, 2012. Send cover letter, resume and a list of three references. Finalists will be contacted.

Training Systems Specialist

Chemonics seeks a training systems specialist for the anticipated five-year USAID funded Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries Program (ECO-FISH) in the Philippines. The program will seek to conserve biodiversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in identified marine key biodiversity areas using ecosystem based approaches to fisheries management as a cornerstone of improving social, economic and environmental benefits. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people in the Philippines. Responsibilities include:

- Create and implement an instructional system design for a national government training program in the Philippines.
- Management and oversight of a national training program delivery.

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in education/pedagogy, instructional systems design or related fields.
- Minimum of 10 years experience in developing and managing strategic training systems specifically for local and national government entities in the Philippines.
- Experience working with USAID or other donor organizations.
- Demonstrated success engaging with the Government of the Philippines and its counterparts and coordinating with multiple program partner institutions.
- Familiarity with marine and coastal resource management and compliance in the Philippines.
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Proficiency in English required.

Application Instructions: Send electronic submissions to ECOFISHchemonics@gmail.com by January 9th, 2012. Send cover letter, resume and a list of three references. Finalists will be contacted.

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Call for Applicants

Private Sector Mobilization for Family Health Project – Phase 2 (PRISM 2) is a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Chemonics International Incorporated. The purpose of PRISM2 is to assist the Philippines' Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Local Government Units (LGUs) to engage and mobilize private sector resources in the delivery of family planning and maternal child health services and products. Chemonics International Inc. seeks applicants for the following position:

• Project Communication Specialist

Detailed scope of work, deliverables, qualifications, special knowledge requirements and application procedures are available in our website: www.prism2.philippsph.edu/jobs. Deadline for submission of application is COB on the 13th of January 2012. Due to the volume of applications we receive, we will only contact short listed candidates for further screening.

"Chemonics International Incorporated is an equal opportunity employer; men and women are encouraged to apply"

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January 01, 2012

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following corporation/proprietorship have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit:

	Name and Address of Prospective Employer	Name and Nationality of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Duties
1.	CHEMECYANTIFICO (PHILS.), INC. 1077 Brgy. Canlubang Calamba City, Laguna	Mr. Alan Joy Chan (Philippines)	Job Coaching Manager
2.	CHEMECYANTIFICO (PHILS.), INC. 1077 Brgy. Canlubang Calamba City, Laguna	Ms. Cathy Wong Kung Lam (Malaysian)	Assistant Manager

Any person who has information/objection to the above mentioned application should communicate with this Regional Office.

(ATTY. ROLANDO S. MARTINEZ JR.)
Regional Director

To avoid delay in your request, please read carefully and follow strictly the Guidelines and Requirements Checklist. Please PRESS to ensure completeness of requirements.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby being given that MOHAMAD T. CARIGMAG whose picture appears above is no longer connected with HOWMEDICA PHILS., INC. effective December 5, 2011.

Any transaction entered into by the aforesaid person for and on behalf of HOWMEDICA PHILS., INC. will not be honored by the company.

(###) – January 1, 2012

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LUXE WATCHES

Pag-IBIG borrowers may file insurance claims for properties affected by "Sendong"

VICE PRESIDENT JEJOMAR BINAY WHO IS also chairman of the Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees, declared in his recent visit to Cagayan de Oro and Iligan that Pag-IBIG housing loan borrowers whose mortgaged properties were structurally damaged or affected by typhoon "Sendong" may claim insurance on their properties.

Affected members are advised to file their claim for fire and allied perils insurance at the nearest Pag-IBIG Fund Branch office, according to Pag-IBIG CEO Darlene Berberabe. Pag-IBIG will assist its members claim from the insurance companies that insured their property, Berberabe added.

Insurance claims are subject to the terms and conditions of the insurance company and shall be processed upon the submission of all required documents. Requirements include application of insurance, sworn statement of formal claim, non-waiver of agreement, cost of damages, bill of materials, and, in case of total loss of property, a statement signed by architect or engineer. A Board of Director Resolution requirements may be requested from the Billing and Collection Department of the operating unit where the borrower made or may be downloaded from the Pag-IBIG Fund website at www.pagibigfund.gov.ph. The cost of damages and bill of materials may be prepared by a licensed engineer or architect.

As part of the requirements, affected borrowers are advised to submit photographs of the housing units showing the portion with structural damages.

In case of partial damage, net insurance proceeds amounting to more than or equal to P50,000 shall be subject to no less than release. Amounts in excess of P50,000 shall be subject to inspection and assessment of the Fund.

For more information, borrowers may visit the Pag-IBIG Cagayan de Oro Branch located at J.R. Borja St., Cagayan de Oro City or call telephone numbers (08822) 722800, 726368, (088)856-1800/01. Likewise, for coordination with the Iligan Branch with office located at Quirino Building W. Tolledo Highway, Iligan City, Pag-IBIG Iligan may be reached at (063) 221-2362, 221-2366 or 221-6123.

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In joyous remembrance of the life of -

MARIA AURORA "MARA" D. ABAD

April 23, 1960- January 1, 2002

10TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We celebrate her legacy of love and laughter with the following masses on Sunday, January 1, 2012:

6:30 a.m. - Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, UP Village, Quezon City
8:00 a.m. - San Pedro de Alcantara Parish Pahil, Laguna
9:00 a.m. - Dominican Hills Monastery Antipolo City
6:00 p.m. - Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish Wack Triangle, Quezon City

Tony and Merlee
Ada, Rica and Ed, Katie & Vince
Abad, Hanson, Dolens, Bilon, Pajela & Rivera Family

"GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME"

"Even though I walk through the valley of darkness, I fear no evil; for you are with me; Your rod and your staff – they comfort me."
Psalm 23:4

In love and faith, we entrust our beloved,

Rodolfo Marfori Lejano

November 7, 1920 – December 30, 2011

father and husband, builder and civic leader, to our Lord's tender embrace.

He will be cherished forever by his family,

Wife – Alicia Perez
Children – Rod and Melvi, Edmon and Jackie, Mandy (†) and Belle, Raul
Grandchildren – Miggy and Kelly, Joey, Edgie, Sasa, Gin and Rowel, Mandie, Enzon

We invite his dear friends and family to his Wake at Mt. Carmel Shrine Broadway Street, New Manila, Quezon City

and Burial on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9 a.m. Funeral Mass at Mt. Carmel Shrine.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

In Memoriam

Christian D. Joaquin

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." – John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS

'My Dream in a Shoebox' brings Christmas cheer to public schools

THE BUSINESS PROCESSING ASSOCIATION of the Philippines (BPAP), in partnership with nonprofit marketing communications firm Teamkida and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), successfully launched this year's "My Dream in a Shoebox", a Christmas campaign that aims to help less fortunate children pursue their education by raising funds and handing out school supplies in simple shoeboxes.

In its third run, My Dream in a Shoebox aims to reach bigger targets, including rebuilding a school and gathering at least 3,000 shoeboxes and 200 computers for public schools. A total of 7,491 shoeboxes, more than 2,000 school supplies, 120 computers and laptops, and almost 1 million in cash donations have been collected to date and will be deployed in areas such as remote villages in typhoon-stricken Iligan City and to public schools identified by non-profit organization Children's Hour and the Department of Education.

"BPAP aimed for bigger targets this year to make a bigger impact and serve more disadvantaged young people," said Gigi Victoria, BPAP senior executive director. "Gift-giving started in Lipa, Batangas, where computers and shoeboxes filled with school supplies were distributed to 1,300 kids and to the computer laboratories of Santo Rosario Elementary School, Bautista Elementary School, and Pinagkaisahan Elementary School."

Raymund Gardiner, BPAP industry affairs director, added that funds raised by industry partners will also be used to assist those affected by Typhoon "Sendong" (International name: Washi). Funds have already

TeamKida Managing Director Michael Alan Hamlin plays Santa during a joyful gift-giving day with kids in Batangas for the "My Dream in a Shoebox" campaign.

been donated to Iligan City and other remote areas through the National ICT Confederation of the Philippines and ICT Batangas Inc.

"We are overwhelmed with the industry's response to the campaign and thank all those who volunteered and took the time to assist not only public schools this Christmas season but also remote communities affected by Typhoon Sendong yet immediately reached by relief efforts," Lavilles said.

BPAP, Teamkida and AFP together with industry sponsors and volunteers, worked together in collecting shoeboxes, school supplies, computers, and cash donations for beneficiaries such as Children's Hour and Bayanihang Pampamilihan. Children's Hour aims to give marginalized Filipino children better access to quality education, quality books and materials; Bayanihang Pampamilihan is a private sector-led project that aims to build 10,000 classrooms by year 2013 and is being organized by the 35 US Corporation.

Distribution of shoeboxes and funds will continue until the end of the year to different municipalities and provinces. About 50 companies and organizations have so far contributed to the My Dream in a Shoebox campaign. Major sponsors include Chevron Holdings Inc., 8TTHAL, Investcorp, Isla Lipana & Co., JPMorgan Chase & Co., Shell Shared Services (Note), Stream Global Services, Sutherland Global Services, and TeleTech.

For more information on the My Dream in a Shoebox campaign, visit www.teamkida.com/shoeboxcampaign.

Students in Lipa, Batangas receive gifts from Santa (TeamKida Managing Director Michael Alan Hamlin) through the "My Dream in a Shoebox" campaign.

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Governance and Institutional Development Specialist

Conservation seeks a governance and institutional development specialist for the anticipated five-year USAID-funded Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries Program (ECO-FISH) in the Philippines. The program will seek to conserve biodiversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in identified marine key biodiversity areas using ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management as a cornerstone of improving social, economic and environmental benefits. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world. Responsibilities include:

- Lead in the capacity building efforts on ecosystem approach to fishery management among national and local government agencies, NGOs, private sectors and other relevant stakeholders
- Identify and assess the potential for private sector participation in sustainable coastal and marine fishery management
- Work closely with other team members to carry out policy analyses, training and public awareness activities with focus on assistance to promote more sustainable coastal and marine fishery management

Qualifications:

- Master degree or equivalent experience in community development, anthropology, sociology, public administration or related fields
- Minimum 10 years of experience in governance, social science and community organization and development in the Asia/Pacific region and developing countries, preferably in the Philippines
- Demonstrated experience in training and in working with technical and community development staff in how to assist community groups to define and resolve issues relating to natural resource use
- Experience in working for or with the private sector and have a good understanding of the private sector's concerns regarding coastal and marine resources
- Excellent interpersonal and team work skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency in English required

Application instructions: Send electronic submissions to [illegible] by January 9th, 2012. Send cover letter, resume and a list of three references. Finalists will be contacted.

Senior Resource Economics Specialist

Conservation seeks a senior resource economics specialist for the anticipated five-year USAID-funded Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries Program (ECO-FISH) in the Philippines. The program will seek to conserve biodiversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in identified marine key biodiversity areas using ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management as a cornerstone of improving social, economic and environmental benefits. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world. Responsibilities include:

- Lead in conducting economic analyses related to environmental protection and presenting economic information in formats that are understandable to national and local governments and other stakeholders
- Lead in evaluating and quantifying benefits, costs, incentives, and impacts of alternative options using economic principles and statistical techniques
- Lead in conducting the socio-economic assessments and use the information in establishing baselines and metrics on monitoring and application of ecosystem approach to fisheries management
- Work closely with other team members to carry out policy analyses, training and public awareness activities with focus on assistance to promote more sustainable coastal and marine fishery management

Qualifications:

- Master degree or equivalent experience in economics, resource economics or related field
- Minimum 10 years of relevant experience in the resource economics or environmental economics and related fields in Asia/Pacific region and in developing countries, preferably in the Philippines
- Have demonstrated knowledge in integrated socio-economic analyses in biodiversity conservations and natural resource management
- Have experiences in working with local and national government officials and a broad range of stakeholders including local fishing communities and women's groups
- Experience in working for or with the private sector and have a good understanding of the private sector's concerns regarding coastal and marine resources
- Hold at least a Bachelor's interpersonal and team work skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency in English required

Application instructions: Send electronic submissions to [illegible] by January 9th, 2012. Send cover letter, resume and a list of three references. Finalists will be contacted.

Chief of Party

Conservation seeks a chief of party for the anticipated five-year USAID-funded Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries Program (ECO-FISH) in the Philippines. The program will seek to conserve biodiversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in identified marine key biodiversity areas using ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management as a cornerstone of improving social, economic and environmental benefits. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people. Responsibilities include:

- Provide overall project leadership, management, and technical direction
- Serve as key liaison with USAID, government counterparts, and lead partners
- Manage and supervise the work of project personnel and subcontractors
- Ensure that all project assistance is technically sound and appropriate
- Collaboratively create and implement a strategic, long-term communications plan
- Oversee project's monitoring, performance management and strategic communications

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in marine and coastal fisheries management, biology, economics or relevant technical field
- Minimum 10 years of relevant technical experience designing, implementing, and managing large donor-funded projects in the region (USAID experience preferred)
- Demonstrated experience interacting with government agencies, host country governments and counterparts, and international donor agencies
- Knowledge and proven successful experience in the field of public private partnerships
- Proven success in managing and supervising staff
- Experience in monitoring, evaluation and knowledge sharing activities
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility and integrity
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency in English required
- Both international candidates and Filipino Nationals encouraged to apply

Application instructions: Send electronic submissions to [illegible] by January 9th, 2012. Send cover letter, resume and a list of three references. No telephone inquiries, please. Finalists will be contacted.

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